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Inter-Arab Affairs

Foreign Ministers Conference in Cairo Ends

NC3108183190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1811 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—The Arab foreign ministers conference ended its meetings in Cairo after a two-hour session this evening.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated after the closing session that he and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi will hold a news conference at 1000 tomorrow, Saturday, to announce the resolutions adopted by the conference.

MENA has learned that the resolutions will include five [as heard] points focusing on the Arab League's demands that Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait and that the legitimate Kuwaiti Government be restored, that Kuwaiti civilians and foreigners be treated well, that Iraq be held responsible for any harm done to them, that all measures against foreign embassies be stopped, and that reparations be paid to Kuwait for the destruction and damage it sustained as a result of the occupation.

Five Gulf Resolutions Issued

NC0109114190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—The Arab Foreign Ministers Council has issued five resolutions pertinent to the situation in the Gulf in light of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In its first resolution related to the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait, the Council has emphasized that any Arab solution to the Gulf crisis must stem from the Arab League Charter and be based on Arab summit Resolution No. 195 issued by the summit of the Arab League Council. The resolution supports the United Nations secretary general in his lofty mission to implement pertinent Security Council resolutions. The resolution also entrusts the UN secretary general with continuing his contacts with member states to learn their views, particularly on Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Arab summit Resolution No. 195, and to submit a report on this issue to the Security Council within three weeks. The resolution notes that Iraq persists in its refusal to abide by the principles of the Arab League Charter, the provisions of Arab summit Resolution No. 195, the United Nations Charter, and the Security Council Resolutions 660, 661, 662, 664, and 665 of 1990.

The second resolution pertains to the situation of the civilians resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwaiti territory. It emphasizes the need for respecting civilians and ensuring their safety and their property and maintaining public and private establishments and property in accordance with Islamic Sharia and the Geneva Fourth Convention of 1949 regarding the protection of civilians in time of war.

In the third resolution, regarding Iraq's seizure of foreign nationals, the Arab League Council demands that the Iraqi authorities refrain from hindering the legitimate right of foreign nationals in both Kuwait and Iraq to depart any time they want, to secure appropriate protection for them, and to ensure their safety and keep them from the dangers of military operations. The Arab League Council holds Iraq fully responsible for any harm done to foriegn nationals or their property resulting from the Iraqi authorities' failure to comply with their international obligations on this issue. Libya objected to this resolution.

In the fourth resolution, related to the diplomatic and consular missions accredited to Kuwait, the Arab League Council decided to consider the Iraqi authorities' decision to terminate the function of the diplomatic missions in Kuwait to be null and void. The resolution emphasizes the legality of the diplomatic missions in continuing their tasks and that their premises and members continue to enjoy all immunities and privileges in accordance with the provisions of international law and the Vienna agreements on diplomatic and consular relations. Libya objected to this resolution.

The fifth resolution deals with compensation for Kuwait for the damage resulting from the Iraqi invasion. The resolution noted that the Kuwaiti delegation reviewed the actions of the Iraqi occupation authorities and the damages done to Kuwaiti interests, banks, establishments, Kuwaiti public and private companies, and Arab and international organizations and branches operating in Kuwait and their huge material losses.

Arab League Secretary General Klibi Resigns

NC0309192090 Paris AFP in English 1915 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, Sept 3 (AFP)—The Arab League secretary general, Chedli Klibi, has resigned, his office said Monday [3 September].

Mr. Klibi has held the post since 1979 when the League's headquarters were transferred from Cairo to Tunis, following Egypt's signing of a peace treaty with Israel.

and, therefore, the organization by all means had to maintain the reference price fixed by the July agreement.

Madani Rejects Statements in Egyptian Press

LD0309083190 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] This morning Mr. Abbassi Madani had to clarify a few points regarding what AL-MUSAWWAR published recently. The leader of the Islamic Salvation Front rejects statements which the Egyptian magazine has attributed to him. Mr. Madani is reported to have said that Saudi Arabia had called for United States troops because Iraqi guns were pointed at Riyadh. According to the same magazine, he is also supposed to have said it was unacceptable that Kuwait was attacked by a fraternal country over a border dispute.

So, Mr. Madani is denying having made such statements and is refraining from making any statements in order not to jeopardize any mediation efforts.

Ahmed Ben Bella To Return to Country 27 Sep

LD0309165490 Berene International Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Former president of Algeria, Ahmed Ben Bella, who has been living in exile in Switzerland and France since 1981, is to return to his native country later this month. A close associate of Mr. Ben Bella told reporters in Geneva that the former president would arrive in Algiers on 27 September following the legalization last March of his political party, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria. The associate, Mohammed Lebjaoui, the leader of Algeria's movement for independence from France in the 1950's and 1960's, said Mr. Ben Bella would be accompanied by many Algerians exiled in Europe.

Hamrouche Chairs Meeting on Print Media

LD0109130790 Algiers APS in English 1115 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 1 September (APS)—The assessment of the situation of the written press was at the center of a meeting which was attended by ministers of economy, social affairs, the delegate to reforms and a number of managers of the sector. The meeting was chaired by the head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche.

At the beginning of the meeting, the delegate to reforms made an assessment of the implementation of the law on information mainly in its organizational aspects and the actions of restructuring that led to the creation of a number of limited companies of the public sector in the field of press.

Moreover, the minister of economy explained a series of new rules of financial and commercial relations of public press companies and which are based on competition.

On his turn, minister of social affairs presented a series of judicial and pragmatic measures likely to enable all the newspapers to have a good departure.

The head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche analyzed in his speech the dimension of the reorganization of the sector of information and its [word indistinct] by opening doors to all initiatives taken by professional journalists or parties, recalling in this context, the essential principles in the reforms in the field of reogranization of information.

The freedom of initiative and the necessity to materialize democracy and break monopolies, he pointed out, incited the government to draft an ambitious program based on a long term vision and whose objective is to adopt information to the needs of citizens and thus face up the hegemony of foreign information.

He also said that press companies are necessary instruments for the safeguard of the national independence and sovereignty and the preservation of the citizen and the public opinion in general from any aggression.

For this reason, he said, the sector of information will be constituted in the near future of three types of companies:
—companies depending on the public sector
—newspapers of the partisan press
—newspapers for independent information.

At a time when some pretend that our action is aimed at the division and the dissolution of the public sector, the head of government said, we consider on our side that we are working with the conviction that the public sector plays an important role in the enrichment of the sector of information.

The public sector plays a primordial role but it must be managed as other newspapers and accept competition so as to impose itself by the results.

In truth, the head of government recalled, the point is not that of means or other marginal problems, but that of the development of a pluralist and diversified national information having all the capacities that will enable it to take in charge the needs of citizens in this field by offering them an information that is far from any manipulation.

As concerns the winding up of companies, Hamrouche invited the provisional managers of the concerned companies to seriously assess the situation of these companies and publish it so that everyone can be aware of the depth of the crisis.

Concerning the national dailies ECH CHAAB and EL MOUDJAHID, the head of government said they will be transfered to the National Liberation Front with separate printing means and headquarters.

Moreover, he invited managers of the public sector to improve the content and the form of their publications as well as their management.

In another development, he announced that judicial and regulatory amendments concerning advertising and distribution will be elaborated in the forthcoming days.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Spanish Foreign Minister

NC0309014390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0821 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 3 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Spanish Foreign Minister Fernandez-Ordonez at Ra's al-Tinah Palace in Alexandria this morning. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Spanish ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the Spanish foreign minister gave President Mubarak two messages from King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. He said that the two messages expressed the appreciation of the Spanish king, government, and people for President Husni Mubarak's role in dealing with the Gulf crisis. They also expressed Spain's readiness, together with the EC, to try to achieve a peaceful solution based on the main principles upheld by Egypt, which are the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to Kuwait.

Regarding the Spanish foreign minister's meeting with President Mubarak, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that this meeting assumed special importance in view of the fact that Spain is a member of the EC and maintains strong relations with Egypt, as a Mediterranean state.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that during the meeting with President Mubarak, the Spanish foreign minister wanted to clarify the Spanish position. He added: We can say that following this meeting, there is identity of views between Egypt and Spain, as the EC condemns the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and wants an end to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and a return of legitimacy to it. The EC is following the situation closely. The EC foreign ministers will hold a meeting in Rome on Friday, as Italy is the current EC chairman, to discuss all the recent developments in the situation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We feel that the European role is very important. The European states' attempt to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and to find a solution will spare the region a destructive war. This solution must be based on the European condition of withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to it. He added: We feel that this approach is similar to Egypt's approach. For this reason, we think that the Spanish foreign minister's visit to Egypt was successful and achieved its objectives and purpose.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that there is complete identity of views and understanding between Egypt on the one hand and Spain and Europe on the other. He noted that the Spanish position insists on the meticulous implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, and this is consistent with Egypt's position.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid denied that the discussion during the meeting dealt with the Egyptian debts to Spain which are estimated at one billion dollars.

He said in conclusion: We are in constant touch with Spain in the spheres of bilateral cooperation. We have always received every cooperation and appreciation from Spain for Egypt's position, and this is encouraging.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Libya's Qadhdhaf Al-Damm

NC3108194690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, coordinator of Libyan-Egyptian relations, this evening.

The meeting was part of the constant Egyptian-Libyan consultations over the current Arab situation and bilateral ties.

Ghali on Palestinian Issue, PLO Leadership

TA0309070390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Ben Lynfield]

[Text] Cairo—Egypt may move away from its view of the PLO as the sole and permanent representative of the Palestinian people, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Butrus Ghali hinted in a weekend interview with THE JERUSALEM POST.

Butrus Ghali also said there were similarities between Israel's refusal to vacate the West Bank and Gaza and Iraq's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait, signaling the possibility of heightened pressure on Israel to negotiate over the territories after the Gulf crisis is resolved.

Egypt will make the Palestinian issue its top diplomatic priority as soon as the crisis is over and will put "all of its energy into creating a new peace process," Butrus Ghali said.

It is too early to know what changes if any Cairo will seek to make in the peace formula of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, which calls for Israeli-Palestinian talks on elections in the territories, he added.

"Israel has only been relegated temporarily," Butrus Ghali explained. "When we find the solution to this inter-Arab dispute, the Palestinian problem will come back to center stage."

The Egyptian official placed Cairo's current bitter dispute with the PLO over the organization's support for Iraq in the context of Egyptian-PLO rifts over the Camp David accords in 1978 and over the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty in 1979. The pro-government Cairo press has recently characterized PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat as a

"traitor," with at least one columnist calling for his ouster. President Husni Mubarak said last week that 'Arafat's standing in Egypt has dropped considerably since the Gulf crisis began.

Butrus Ghali, noting that previous Egyptian-PLO disputes were eventually reconciled, said that Egypt "will certainly have a reconciliation with the Palestinians" this time around as well.

He hinted, however, that Egypt may at some point distinguish between the Palestinians and an 'Arafat-led PLO, specifying that Cairo would mend fences with the PLO "as long as the PLO represents the Palestinians.

"They represent them today," he added. "I don't know if in the next five years they (the Palestinians) may have another representation. But today the PLO represents the Palestinians."

Despite frequent Egyptian-PLO tensions, 'Arafat has been known officially here, since the 1988 Palestinian declaration of independence, as "president of the State of Palestine." The doubts raised by a senior policymaker here about 'Arafat and the PLO's tenure as the representative of Palestinian nationalism appear to indicate the depth of official dissatisfaction with the PLO.

Butrus Ghali said the question of what the PLO might be able to do to regain its standing with the Egyptian government will be addressed only after the Gulf crisis is settled.

But he stressed that despite its dispute with the PLO, Cairo believed the Gulf crisis has underscored rather than diminished the importance of Israeli-Palestinian talks. "The real crisis is the Palestinian problem," he said. "If the peace process (had) worked, then certainly the atmosphere (in the region) would have been different. We would have had an atmosphere of peace, not of confrontation. When you have an atmosphere of confrontation, you encourage confrontation."

Butrus Ghali faulted Israel for refusing to attend Cairo talks with Palestinians on elections in the territories, saying Israel's refusal and the lack of progress on the Palestinian issue had created a "background of instability" in the region prior to the Gulf crisis.

Asked why Israel should now pursue negotiation while Egypt itself is disillusioned with the Palestinian leadership, Butrus Ghali responded that the "objective need" for Israel to talk with Palestinians "in the interests of peace" is a separate issue from Egyptian-PLO tension.

Regarding the specifics of the Gulf crisis, Butrus Ghali declined to comment on Iraq's threats last week to hit back at Israel and Saudi Arabia if America attacks it. He reiterated Egypt's view that Israel "should have no role" in the Gulf crisis, which he said is at heart an inter-Arab dispute despite the massive foreign troop presence in the Gulf.

Asked what Egypt's reaction would be to an Israeli strike against Iraq, Butrus Ghali commented: "I hope Israel will not do this and will maintain the same position (in the crisis) as it has previously."

Troops Depart by Air for United Arab Emirates

NC0409115590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian forces left for the United Arab Emirates today to strengthen that state's defense capabilities against any foreign aggression within the framework of Arab solidarity and under an Arab umbrella.

These forces, which will operate under UAE command, were flown by Egyptian transport planes under the protection of the Egyptian Air Force.

The UAE is the second Arab state after Saudi Arabia to which Egyptian forces have been dispatched as part of the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo to strengthen the defense capabilities of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states within the framework of Arab solidarity, one of the fruits of which was the October [1973] victory.

Libya

Sudanese Leader Al-Bashir Arrives in Tripoli

LD0109092190 Tripoli JANA in English 0811 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 1, Jamiriyah News Agency—General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, and the delegation in his company arrived last night in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

A big welcoming ceremony, headed by [word indistinct] Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Colonel Mustafa Al-Kharrubi, was mounted for General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir on his arrival at Tripoli international airport. [passage omitted]

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi, Signs Agreement

AB0209135290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Yesterday in Tripoli the two presidents, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, signed the implementation program for integrating the institutions of the two countries.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir expressed pleasure over participating in the celebrations of the historic 1 September Revolution which has devoted all its time and effort to Arab unity and persevered in its struggle to achieve that unity for 20 years despite the frustrations affecting the Arab arena and military aggression aimed at aborting the 1 September Revolution. In spite of these challenges, however, the revolution has continued to maintain its ground.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir continued: The 1 September Revolution has been a guide and a torch for us by maintaining the flame of Arab unity throughout. He said: Signing our integration agreement is a step toward Arab unity. We are determined to present the Arab nation with a model of unity. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir stressed that there was no place for small entities in today's world.

Referring to the Libyan initiative on solving the Gulf crisis, his excellency said the initiative had presented a comprehensive view on solving the problem thoroughly. He added that the massive foreign troops in the area pose a threat. He said: In the event of all parties' accepting the initiative, the Arab nation will gain further power and unity and a greater understanding of the looming danger. He expressed the hope that the parties concerned would respond to the voice of reason and accept this initiative.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, asserted that everyone from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf was talking about unity, which is why Arab groups had been formed. Col. al-Qadhdhafi said that signing the historic agreement reaffirmed the integration between Sudan and Libya. His excellency lauded the national salvation revolution and its nationalistic trend, asserting that the region's problems could only be solved by unity.

Extraordinary Session of People's Congress Opens

LD0109103890

[Editorial report] Tripoli Television Service in Arabic at 0959 GMT on 1 September interrupts its Libyan revolution anniversary programming to carry a live relay of the opening of the extraordinary session of the General People's Congress in Tripoli.

Al-Qadhdhafi, accompanied by General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, is shown entering the auditorium and taking his seat.

At 1003 GMT, a Koran recitation marks the beginning of the congress.

Secretary General Gives Address

LD0209075890 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1006 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Speech by Muftah al-Usta 'Umar, Secretary General of the General People's Congress, at an extraordinary session of the General People's Congress in Tripoli—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God,
[Addressing the rostrum] No matter how much one talks to express the passion, one cannot do you justice in your presence. [passage omitted]. Our cause is the cause of man and the freedom of man, here, there, and everywhere. And we do not stop for a moment in pushing strongly for Arab unity or union in any form which preserves the essence, does not abort the passion or hinder the march, and which is well ordered in stages and absorbs the circumstances of all. [passage omitted]

It is time for our many enemies, for Zionism, the imperialists, the fierce hateful West; it is time for the arrogant tyrants, for the forces of colonialism and monopoly, to leave the best nation alone, and for us to formulate its unity and devise its future unhurriedly and in an orderly manner. [passage omitted]

They all came with alleged legitimacy and under the cover of religion, and they were all liars, devious and godless. What they all really wanted, the first ones and those who followed them, was to rub the nose of the Arabs in the mud, and for the foreigners to control the wealth and to firmly tie up the world, and to supervise piracy, robbery and monopoly. And woe unto them for claiming international legitimacy in their present invasion. What business do they have? What business is it to Caesar if 'Abs oppressed Dhibyan, or if Bakr encroached on the pastures of Ghadfar? [reference to Arab tribes] [passage omitted].

We shall not accept that an Arab land, in the east or the west, can be occupied under any pretext or any slogan. And we shall not accept that the shoes of the American giant and the heels of the whores of Zion can trample upon the bones of the prophet's companions and the pure soil of the prophet. Oh what grief and pain! They are there boasting and playing on the holy land which is prohibited to them, openly practicing every depravity and sin, usurping the wealth and the land, and raping our honor. [passage omitted]

O revolutionary leader, O daring leader, [passage omitted]. Who other than you is there for this gloomy nation? Who is there other than the trustee of this nation to lift this nation from this decay and this perdition? [applause] [passage omitted]

Address by Sudan's Al-Bashir

LD0209080990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1022 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Speech by 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, at an extraordinary session of the General People's Congress in Tripoli—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God, and peace and prayers on the messenger of God. Brother mobilizer and leader of the great Fatih revolution, and guardian of pan-Arabism; brother members of the General People's Committee; brother members of the congress and honorable guests, peace and God's mercy be upon you. I stand before you today congratulating you on the 21st anniversary of the great Fatih revolution, a revolution which has continued to struggle and thrust against imperialism, and against agents and stooges of imperialism in the Arab homeland. [passage omitted]

Your steadfastness and persistence provided a strong impetus for us in the national salvation revolution to come to you in order to learn from your experiences and steadfastness, your unionist path, and the jamahiri era in the Jamahiriyah. For us, the Fatih experience was a timesaver; from its inspiration, its experience, and its green revolution we learned a great deal. The unionist policy of the Fatih revolution and the sacrifices it has offered for the sake of unity provided the impetus for us to follow the same path with the same persistence, guided by a great hope that our integration would turn into a comprehensive unity to become the seed of Arab unity until the Arab nation unites from the Ocean to the Gulf. [unity slogans shouted]

We of the [national] salvation revolution are aware of the difficult path to unity, because our enemies know very well that when we unite we shall become the premier force, number one, in the world. They have studied history and know very well that when the dispersed and discordant tribes of the Arabian peninsula united under the banner of Islam, they streamed barefoot out of the heart of the peninsula to strike simultaneously against the greatest powers of those days; the Persian and Roman empires. [passage omitted]. However, with His [God's] blessings, our persistence and our people's determination, we will be able to reach this unity soon, God willing. Because if we do not unite, we shall remain weak and prey to our enemies.

The current attack on the Gulf region is a result of our weakness and disunity. They came under the pretext of protecting the Kuwaiti [as heard] people. We know that Palestine is Arab, Lebanon is Arab, Syria is Arab, and Kuwait is Arab. Why then did not America make a move when the Zionists occupied Palestine? Why did not the U.S. fleets make a move when the Zionists invaded Lebanon? America even refused to condemn the barbaric invasion which was carried out by the Zionists. We find them now ("passing) one resolution after another, and bringing their fleets to dominate the Gulf region and to blockade the Iraqi people. For the first time a people has been blockaded, even regarding food and medicine. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, there is another issue which we must deal with. It is the assumption of power by the masses, completely and utterly. I mentioned at the beginning of my address that the Fatih revolution's experience has enabled us to save time. We started to hand over power to the masses a year after the outbreak of the revolution. We were able to do that due to the 1 September experience [applause]. [passage omitted]

We are convinced in Sudan through experience that partisanship means destruction of democracy [applause]. You may be following the consultations that are under way in Sudan to enable us to take complete power to the people out of full conviction that there is no other way for us except to hand over power to the people, because the struggle over power has cost us dearly. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Outlines Initiative

LD0109195990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 0959 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at extraordinary session of the General People's Congress in Tripoli—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Dear brothers and sons of the Libyan people everywhere in the great Jamahiriyah, dear brother secretaries of the people's congresses, of the people's committees, and of the professional unions and associations, members of the General People's Congress.

We stand in this hour to salute the 21st anniversary of the explosion of the great 1 September Revolution by the Unionist Free Officers and their brave soldiers. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly, this program [to revitalize Libya], implementation of which has already begun and to which there has already been some response, is facing some (?outside) attempts aimed at thwarting it. We must speak frankly and say that what has happened now between Kuwait and Iraq is seen as a negative action regarding the project for Arab union. The truth is that Iraq said it was threatened by America and Zionism and it called for the holding of an emergency summit to gather support. We then packed up and went to Baghdad. The amirs and kings of the Gulf were among the first to go to Baghdad in support of Iraq and against what had been described as threats from America and the Israelis.

At the summit, we agreed that the project for Arab union would be submitted to the forthcoming meeting in November. However, I consider what happened between Iraq and Kuwait as a negative action regarding the unionist project.

I was surprised, for instance, that the amir of Kuwait was in Baghdad and that he supported Iraq against America and Zionism. Then, when the [summit] conference was over, we were taken by surprise by the occurrence of this dramatic development.

Kuwait acceded to independence in July 1961. It has been independent for 29 or 30 years, [which is the life of] a generation. It hosts more than 70 embassies, which means relations with the countries of the world.

I am undoubtedly siding with Iraq against America and Zionism, with our brothers and our people in Iraq against the imperialistic threats. [applause] However, we are...I am, at the same time, against Iraq's entry into Kuwait, because I have a [determined] stand. We had openly fought [Morocco's] King Hassan with the Polisario. We transported arms from Libya to the Sahara. We trained the Polisario forces. Why? Because my protest against him is due to the fact that he invaded a group of Arabs as if they were a group of animals. The truth is that I do not believe in the addition of another Arab [country] on top of the 20 or 21 countries. These are paper states. I am calling for one Arab state from the Ocean to the Gulf. This is a firm stand in which I believe. It is a matter

of faith, not just a diplomatic or political stand. But, I am, at the same time, against the invasion of a group of Arabs as if they were animals.

As I have said, King Hassan told me that there were 40,000 [Saharan people], but they could not form a state. [I told him]: O.K.; I am with you; they do not form a state. And I know that the revolutionaries in it might become agents after 20 years of the existence of this state. The Sahara might become a base for America, Russia, India, China, or any other state [words indistinct].

A dwarf state of 40,000 people is illogical. However, I am against its invasion. How could you bring your army; invade the Sahara; make women and children homeless; make people lose their mothers, their children, their wives, and their sisters, thus making them homeless, because a huge army invaded the Sahara. I told him [King Hassan] that I am against such an invasion. Consequently, this group, whether big or small, must be asked about its self-determination. We fought for self-determination until the United Nations decided the referendum in the Western Sahara. This is good.

We ask 40,000, or even 10,000 whether they want the king, or Algeria, or the Polisario, or Ould Dada in Mauritania. Let them decide!

I am normally against the establishment of a small state in this way. But if they say we want a state, we cannot force them with guns to say the opposite. Suppose they had said: We are 40,000 and want a state because Qatar, Bahrain, Libya, and so on are all dwarf states, so why not us? If that is what they wanted, we could not force them with guns, swords, and beatings to say the opposite.

When the king agreed on a referendum and showed respect to this group, we stooped all military aid to the Polisario.

If they want things like this, we will never support this war between Morocco and the Polisario. We have in fact stopped completely and I believe all the sides have stopped fuelling the fire of this war despite the fact that the king says: The Sahara is a part of Morocco and I will not allow it to establish a state which is recognized by the world and which I will enter as an invader. He said: No, and the day Spain withdrew I entered. This is in fact what happened—the day the Madrid agreement was announced, Spain withdrew and the king [of Morocco] entered. However, Kuwait became independent 30 years ago, and so I am against its invasion today, even if it was a part of Iraq. How can we leave it for 30 years and then say: Oh, it is a part of Iraq. In reality, Saudi Arabia is a part of Iraq, Iraq is a part of Syria, Syria is a part of Jordan, Jordan is a part of Palestine, Palestine is a part of Egypt, Egypt is a part of Libya, and Libya is a part of Mauritania. We are all a part of each other. We are all parts constituting one Arab territory and one Arab people. It is not only Kuwait which is a part of Iraq, we are all parts of each other. [applause] [passage omitted]

In fact, the al-Sabah dynasty has been ruling Kuwait since the 18th century. The al-Sabah dynasty hails not from Iraq but from Najd [in Saudi Arabia], just like the Al Khalifah [family] which now rules Bahrain. Both of them come from Najd. [passage omitted]

In 1961, Kuwait attained its independence. Naturally, it supports Arab unity. But Arab unity does not concern Kuwait alone. Is is more important with Syria.

As to saying that Kuwait's oil policy was detrimental to Iraq, this is true. Indeed, it has harmed us in Libya, too. But we must differentiate: Was the reason [for the invasion] that Kuwait's oil policy has harmed Iraq, or that Kuwait was part of Iraq?

Is the reason that Kuwait was a part of Iraq irrespective of whether it had oil or not? Or is it a matter of oil, in which case what has happened would have happened even if Kuwait did not constitute part of Iraq, which is the truth. I have already spoken to you briefly about Kuwait's history.

We have now entered the matter from the point of view of Iraq: that it [Kuwait] is either a part of Iraq or that its oil policy poses a threat to Iraq. Or could it be that the United States has deceived us and created a plot to embroil us in Kuwait so that it may seize the Arabian Peninsula, in which it never expected to land with such speed.

This means that we have given them [the United States] a pretext against our will, despite the fact that we are unionists and revolutionaries. We have given America a historic opportunity to directly enter its forces in the Arabian peninsula and the Gulf. This was unexpected. It was unexpected that America or even the Saudis would dare to deploy American forces in the peninsula. There are facilities, delegations, and similar matters, but that American forces with all their various equipment needing to be tested in the Sahara and their soldiers needing experience in the Gulf—all of this used to be considered a catastrophe, that America should deploy its forces in the Gulf.

What is the golden opportunity that America thinks would happen? What is the impossible thing which must happen for America to deploy its forces in Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia? The impossible happened when [Iraq] entered Kuwait. Whether we like it or not, we have enabled America to enter the Arabian peninsula. They [the Americans] are now saying: That is it, the reaction is over. We had expected that when we landed in Mecca and al-Madinah, all hell would break loose on us. In reality, the situation is fine—just a few demonstrations and everything is over. [passage omitted] Even if we oust them and they come back in five or ten years, it would seem normal to them. We have given them a golden opportunity—an opportunity which they never expected, an opportunity which will allow them to come back any time and say: The Arabian peninsula? No problem! We were there in 1990 and nothing happened to us. We got used to it. [passage omitted]

That Qatar or Bahrain would dare ask the American forces to land in their country, or that a Red American [as heard] should land in this region, used to be considered impossible. They [Qatar and Bahrain] used to fear what the other Arabs would say about them. Indeed, they used to extend their hands to America secretly, but now it is done openly. They ride their camels and go and ask for American help. [passage omitted] But this is what has happened. The oil policy of Kuwait, the Emirates, and Saudi Arabia killed the Libyan people, the Algerian people, the Iraqi people—all of these Arab peoples who depend for their livelihood on the sale of oil. Indeed, they killed us without any justification. It was a handful of people who flooded the markets with oil. America takes Kuwait's oil and that of the Gulf and stores it in its land; it does not consume it. It buys oil from them and stores it in its land so that when the oil in the Gulf runs out they will have reserves—an oil field on American soil! And it does not consume its own oil; it consumes Gulf oil. Many times and repeatedly we have told them: Brothers, you have starved your brothers; starved your kinfolk; starved the sons of Iraq, the sons of Libya, and their children and made us weak before the foreigners with your oil policy. Abu Dhabi has a population of 100,000. How can it produce one, one and a half, two million barrels a day? Why? What do you do with it? By God, each one of them, each amir, has an oil well! Everyone has a field from which he sells as he wishes, and we cannot regulate prices or exports. This is known: The oil policy was nonsense, which indeed dictated that something against them should happen.

But this is one thing, and the claim that Kuwait is a part of Iraq is another. If it had no oil and we said it was a part of Iraq, this is all right. We could have taken it in 1961; we could have taken it at any time and said this is a part of Iraq. But if the issue is the oil policy, then this is another topic. But I am indeed against the invasion of Kuwait anyway. We can destroy the oil, attack the oil with missiles and aircraft, and destroy it in front of America and the Kuwaitis: You do not need the oil; you killed us, so oil should be destroyed. But let us respect the Kuwaitis. We cannot suddenly attack them with tanks and let them flee before us. I do not accept the invasion of an Arab population in this way.

I am a unionist; I am with Iraq against the United States, but I am against the invasion of Kuwait in this manner. There are several other ways to teach Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, and so on, a lesson, but we cannot invade them this way and say the matter is over; we are united. Was this because of oil or unity?! If the aim is unity, Kuwait may not be the only victim of unity. In Casablanca an argument developed between Brother Hafiz al-Asad and brother Saddam at the summit conference. President Hafiz said Mosul is Syrian. President Saddam replied to him, and said Dayr Al-Zur is Iraqi. Dayr Al-Zur is in Syria and Mosul is in Iraq. Is it unity, or is the matter that this is Iraqi and this is Syrian? What is Iraqi and Syrian?! This is one Arab land. You should remove the border and become one state. He told him Mosul is Syrian and the other told him no, Dayr Al-Zur is Iraqi. Fine, if there is a problem, you can always fall back on unity. Why all this fuss? Take Mosul or Dayr Al-Zur, if there is unity, of course. Why take Kuwait, for example? We are opposed to the oil policy. Together with the Iraqis we are in fact against the oil shaykhs. There is no doubt about that, because oil is not going to the Arabs but is going to the United States and the Israelis. When this serious problem appeared, an excuse was thus provided to the United States to land with its troops, as if the United States were the policeman of the world. It did not wait for the United Nations or anybody else; it immediately landed its troops in the region. We gave it this historic opportunity. I, for myself, sent numerous letters to heads of state, especially to the United Nations Security Council permanent members who have a right of veto, and told them: My friends, this conduct by the United States is unjust; if you are protesting that Iraq violated the UN Charter, then the United States has also violated the UN Charter with the methods it has used. Who gave the United States the right to intervene in such an issue? It is the United Nations which has that right, and not the United States.

There is a verse from a pre-Islamic poem which is a bit difficult to understand, and it goes like this: What has it got to do with Roman Caesar if 'Abs attacked Dhubyan? By God, it is right. There were two Arab tribes which fought each other; why does the Caesar of Rome have to get involved in the matter? 'Abs and Dhubyan could well be Iraq and Kuwait [applause]; what has it got to do with the United States, which is playing the part of Caesar? In fact, the Americans are hoodwinked. Truly, that is unfortunate. Their president, their chief of staff, their defense secretary, and so on, are misleading their people and making fools of them with such big words as: It all has to do with the United States, with responsibilities and its role. It is all fake. Nobody understands that. Of course, the whole of the American people are ignorant. Is there not anybody who could stand up and say: What is this nonsense you are giving us? The United States lies between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and between Central America and Canada. This is our geographic position. You should be more concerned with the 12 million unemployed Americans and the 25 million who are suffering from cancer. Furthermore, AIDS is spreading like wildfire in the United States: Why do you not stop it? Enough with this nonsense about Kuwait, Israel, Panama, or Vietnam. Why cannot any man in the United States stand up and say things like that? What is this nonsense? But this will come. The American mind certainly exists, and they are at least a human group—there are people who will determine their own destiny. This has already begun. [revolutionary slogans in the background] One day the Americans will inevitably recover their conscience, and they will put an end to this nonsense. They talk about the United States and its role: What has it got to do with the United States? Fine, Kuwait was taken by Iraq. You can call it injustice, aggression, a violation of the Arab League charter, and a violation of the UN Charter. Fair enough. It is a matter

for the United Nations. Why did India not come and land in the Gulf asking: Why has Iraq attacked? Why did India not say that?

Why did Norway, [for example], not come to the region with its troops and say: Why did Iraq attack Kuwait? What is all this? What is America? In fact, this is arrogance, a violation of international law, and a colonialist logic. Why does America intervene when two states fight each other. When America went into Panama, it was sheer injustice and aggression. It [the United States] even changed its [Panama's] president and has kept him in place until now. What is this nonsense? It also went into Grenada. Who told it to go into Grenada and Panama? America is the oppressor because it went into Panama and established [military] bases. Why is that? Did Panama go into America to establish bases? There was talk about drug trafficking and so on. Who smuggled drugs into your [the United States] country? Have your people refused to transport them? [Words indistinct] there is plenty of drug addiction and alcoholism and a high rate of suicide. A crime is committed every minute [in America]. Why is there not anybody who would say that the society is corrupt and he would like to rid it of the bad ones?

What is this? It [America] attacked Libya and killed Libyan children in their sleep, and all the raids were on civilians. Did the world do anything then? The Israelis go on the rampage as they please in the Middle East. America is continuously backing them and uses the veto [in their favor]. Nobody believes that America is on the side of justice, democracy, or freedom. Even children do not believe in America. When they see a picture of America they spit on it. Any two-year-old or three-year-old child [would do it]. Nobody can believe that America is indeed on the side of justice and law. That is what they are always boasting about. In their speeches, they say: We are on the side of law, legitimacy, and democracy. Who can believe this nonsense?

The fact that America eggs on the United Nations and tells it: I am a superpower with a right of veto and I am responsible for world peace and for the international community, and the United Nations must adopt a resolution regarding Iraq's entry into Kuwait. This seems reasonable. I myself called for that and even sent a message to Bush via Belgium. I asked him: Why do you put yourself in a situation of confrontation with the Arabs? What is wrong? What do you want? Why do you scorn us in this way? You have come all the way from there, flexing your muscles, and you want America to confront the Arabs. Why are you doing this? [applause] I told him: We accept a confrontation with the United Nations but if we had to confront you we could no longer think of Kuwait and Iraq and who is the oppressed and who the oppressor. If you go in, the confrontation is between you and us. But if it is matter for the United Nations [applause] we will obey the United Nations. Yes. We are against Iraq's entry into Kuwait—and that is in line with the Arab League Charter—and we are against Iraq's entry into Kuwait in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to which we belong. Leave it between us and the United Nations and you can play your role within the United Nations. You do not have the right to go beyond this.

The UN Security Council has decided to impose an economic embargo on Iraq. This means that you no longer buy from Iraq or sell to it. If an Iraqi cargo ship arrives, you just have to say: no, sorry! You do not need to go there to impose a blockade on Iraq. There is a difference between a blockade and an economic embargo.

I have also sent several letters to the members of the UN Security Council and to the states concerned with the matter and told them: My friends, America is making a mistake. After many efforts some people in America realized this and started telling Bush: You have gone beyond your own legal prerogatives. And you have done things which do not concern America.

Indeed, thanks to the pressure I brought to bear and to the daily letters I sent to the heads of state and especially the members of the UN Security Council, the latter adopted Resolution 665 to satisfy us a bit and to tell us: Here you are, we have responded. You told us America was acting outside the law, and we did not give it the right to act on its own and to impose the blockade on its own because nobody has decided on the blockade. Well now, the UN Security Council has decided on the blockade.

Fine, but they have trumped it up. What is the fait accompli? The U.S. troops are still there and America is still talking as if it were concerned by the matter. It is no concern of America's; it is a matter for the United Nations.

The matter is, however, twofold. The first one deals with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The second one is the attempt to involve the United States: This is wrong. The United States has no right to involve itself; this is a United Nations duty. However, if there had been a joint defense treaty or protection treaty between the United States and Kuwait, then the United States could involve itself. Anyway, there is no such treaty. Therefore, the United States has no right to get involved between 'Abs and Dhubyan? The United Nations has the right to protect Kuwait and do whatever it wants to secure Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwati. This should be a UN role and responsibility.

However, the United States's involvement in Saudi Arabia is completely another matter; Saudi Arabia should shoulder the responsiblity. Saudi Arabia is an independent country; it became afraid, and in breach of the Arab League's Charter has invited in the forces of another friendly country; the latter positively responded, and deployed its forces in this country which thinks of itself as independent. All right, it has become clear now that the group that includes Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf countries is under U.S. protection; this is correct. It has now become clear that they are not independent countries, and that they cannot decide for themselves. It has also become clear that Mecca and al-Madinah should not be under the control of a country

which might call for the help of Christian and Jewish forces, and therefore they should be put under an international Islamic control. Those are matters that one can assert. However, this is another matter: In other words, if Saudi Arabia wants to lay bare and expose itself together with the rest of the Gulf rulers by calling on Americans' help, this should be their problem. This should be their concern as well as the concern of their people.

However, the U.S. itself has no right to confront Iraq. Only the United Nations and the Arab league should be able to confront Iraq; the latter should be condemned for invading Kuwait regardless of whatever reason it had. If it was due to oil policies, we have also suffered from such policies, and therefore we also should have a right to take part in the occupation of Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, or Saudi Arabia. Poor Yemen, which has a poor population of 15 million, has suffered a great deal from Saudi oil. And therefore they have the right to converge on the oil fields and take them. This might take place; in fact, it might take place. And why not? The Yemenis are the inhabitants of the Arab peninsula to which the oil belongs. [applause]

In reality, there is now a blockade against Iraq because the latter entered Kuwait. They tried to comply with our pressure and put it under the framework of the United Nations to give it legitimacy. Regrettably, the UN Security Council has now approved this resolution and the blockade has become legitimate, as if it were from the United Ntions and as if UN forces were the ones practicing the blockade—whereas they have not yet been set up, and the forces that are present are the ones they have considered as UN forces; this is wrong. We support international law, the Arab League Charter, and the UN resolutions; however, at the same time we do not accept Iraq's oil, and we do not not export Iraq's oil, as there is no import and export between us and Iraq in the field of oil, which is the main subject of the blockade. However, it is impossible for us in the end to participate in the starving of our people and children in Iraq [words indistinct]. [applause]

An Iraqi ship loaded with weapons came to us—we knew it had weapons—and requested refuge in Libya. We said: Please come and take refuge in Libya. They came and stayed in the harbor. They said: We want supplies; we want things. We said: Help yourself for free; stay a day or two; please stay. Then they said: We want to make a move, go any place. We said: Please do! We did not go into whether the arms should go to Iraq or not. An Iraqi oil tanker came and said: We would like to enter a port and take on supplies and things. We said: Please come! We did not unload its oil and we will not buy it. Whether it returns it to Iraq or not, we have nothing to do with it. It came and took fuel or supplies and went on its way. This issue: oil, weapons, whether these are chemical equipment about which they talk—well, there is an embargo on them. Fine! Libya is unconcerned with this matter because it is not close to Iraq. We are in Africa and Iraq is in Asia. We are not in the Gulf of Aqaba or the Arabian Gulf. Thus, Libya has nothing to do with this blockade. But in the face of serious international attempts to starve the Iraqi people or harm them, and in the face of tragedy we should talk bravely—the tragedy which the Kuwaitis are living. We do not even talk about rulers. Every Kuwaiti is now living a tragedy. But there are ordinary citizens scattered all over the world. Even their accounts were frozen. [Words indistinct] in order to face up to the Americans' attempt to have a firm foothold. The speech made yesterday by the American chief of staff when he said: We must have permanent forces in the Gulf, in the Mediterranean, in the Pacific Ocean, in the Atlantic Ocean, in Europe, and even supporting forces in America itself, that is, the whole world should be under the American sphere of influence—this was dangerous as well as troubling. It was a dangerous speech. He simply pointed out that all seas, oceans, and continents should be under American influence. He said, furthermore, that the dangerous force which is facing us is the Soviet one. Whether the Soviet Union has retracted or not; whether it is still with us or not, still it has a nuclear force which can destroy America in 30 minutes. Those were his own words. Therefore, the target is the Soviet nuclear force; it must be destroyed. Therefore, all attempts of rapprochement with Moscow are aimed at destroying it. It means that nothing has changed. Whether the war is cold or hot, or whether there is an international relaxation or not, it is immaterial. It means, furthermore, that this imperialist policy is making ways in the world.

The Arabs are split into two parties; this [Iraqi invasion] has dealt a blow to our initiative, the initiative of Arab union.

In view of all these dangers and after having sent [Mustafa] al-Kharrubi to President Saddam—he went there in the company of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, that is, Chairman 'Umar al-Bashir also went to Baghdad after our meeting with him here and our agreement to undertake contacts with our brothers in Baghdad; he asked for Mustafa al-Kharrubi to accompany him. President Saddam received them. And I was briefed on their meeting with him. After that, King Husayn came here; he brought with him his own ideas. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] came here the day before yesterday. After the arrival of 'Umar al-Bashir and Al-Kharrubi, he also went to Baghdad.

In order to escape the whirlwind in which he have found ourselves I have come up with some ideas which would constitute a peaceful initiative to the problem in the Gulf. And we are going to announce them today to the world. If there is no positive response to this initiative—which should please all parties, should save face, help the world to avoid military confrontation, safeguard international peace—if there is no positive response to it, one should then start asking questions; it will be hard for one to understand how things really started and what the aims are.

One would then be puzzled. One would no longer understand how things started, and what their objective is. Then I would no longer understand what is going on among the parties that are joined together, and those that are facing

each other. Consequently, one has to define one's national duty and carry it out, and leave matters as they are.

There might be things unknown to us. Things agreed upon by all the Arabs concerned among themselves, agreed upon by certain parties, agreed upon by the Americans and the Arabs, and we are so far not aware of (?what was agreed upon among them.) This could happen.

If there is no response, this will mean that the matter as we see it is not the truth: Perhaps there is something else behind it.

But before concluding and announcing our initiative to journalists, diplomats, and representatives of the foreign powers and the world, we must say that as far as we Libyans are concerned, the people of Iraq have set an example in patience, courage, and endurance. We do not mean this with regard to the invasion of Kuwait—because we are against this invasion—but before that. [passage omitted]

I believe that the steadfastness of the people of Iraq until now has no parallel. Unfortunately, our people in Iraq have repeatedly suffered catastrophes and tribulations in their history. [passage omitted]

Even the plague, when it came to the Arab region—it is known that it hit the Iraqi people in an unlimited manner. Even when the 14 July [1958] revolution erupted to save Iraq from the Baghdad Pact and the agent monarchy, and then 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim deviated and the al-Shawwaf revolution erupted in Mosul—in both cases the water of the Euphrates turned red from blood. Then the U.S. conspired, the Israelis conspired, and Satan conspired between Iraq and Iran following the revolution which had liberated it. Iraq suffered a loss of one million people among dead, prisoners, homeless, and the handicapped. In other words, massive losses. Now there are fleets, missiles, and terrible things poised against the people of Iraq. We want to spare our Iraqi people—despite their steadfastness and courage—the catastrophe. If we can spare our people in Iraq another catastrophe—why should these people pay the price of the disasters awaiting it? This is another disaster we will try, if we can, to spare our people in Iraq.

This plan advocates the replacement of the Iraqi troops in Kuwait by UN forces because Kuwait is not certain that once the Iraqi troops leave nothing will change. They could return there at any time. Second, the departure of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait could be exploited and the U.S. and NATO troops could take their place instead. Third, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf emirates and others will not feel reassured if there is vacuum in Kuwait and we refuse to see that if the Iraqi troops leave they are replaced by U.S. and NATO troops. Therefore, UN forces should replace the Iraqi troops in Kuwait with the withdrawal of the NATO troops from the Gulf and the lifting of the economic blockade on Iraq once the Iraqi troops withdraw from Kuwait. Arab and Islamic troops should also replace the U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia. If the UN forces are deployed in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia will be secure because there will be a UN barrier separating it from Iraq. Thus, Saudi Arabia will have no excuse for keeping the U.S. troops because it fears Iraqi troops.

Because there will be an international barrier between it and Iraq, Saudi Arabia would no longer have an excuse to keep the U.S. forces because it fears Iraqi forces,—because Kuwait is a barrier between Saudi Arabia and Iraq and international forces exist in Kuwait. If Arab forces exist in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia may keep the U.S. forces, saying that the Arab forces in Kuwait are not sufficient and we do not rely on them to prevent an Iraqi force advance on Saudi Arabia.

To deprive Saudi Arabia of the excuse to keep the U.S. forces, we place international forces in Kuwait to reassure Saudi Arabia, and in order to prevent NATO forces' replacing the Iraqi forces in Kuwait, UN forces enter Kuwait. In addition to Kuwait being a barrier of international forces, Arab and Islamic forces should replace the U.S. forces in Saudia Arabia.

Indeed, Arab and Islamic forces should never exist with the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia. Regrettably, our brothers in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and other countries are good-natured people. They are naive, sending forces without knowing what lies ahead. Naively they sent forces to Saudi Arabia. This is a sin [haram] to bring Islamic Bangladesh and Pakistani forces and station them side by side along with the U.S. forces. That is, Pakistani, Egyptian, and American soldiers attack an Iraqi soldier: How can we accept this?

I told King Hasan II—he sent a small symbolic force—do you want a Moroccan soldier and an American to attack an Iraqi soldier? Let us assume that Iraq had gone mad and entered Saudi Arabia: Do you want to see a Moroccan soldier and an American soldier with their weapons drawn, attacking an Iraqi soldier? He said this is unacceptable. I told him: Well, this is what is happening. [applause]

Arab and Muslim forces should be brought to Saudi Arabia in lieu of the U.S. forces. Allow Iraq to have the island, which I think is named Bubyan, so as to have a coastline on the Gulf, and give al-Rumaylah oil field back to it. The internal system of Kuwait should be left for the Kuwaiti people. We should be talking about who should rule Kuwait and whether the al-Sabah family should return or not, and so forth. The Kuwaiti people should be respected and should be allowed to decide their own system.

The need to draw a unified Arab oil policy which should not be violated by anyone; he who violates it should shoulder the responsibility of his violation. Any act to deter him would be construed as legitimate. Meanwhile, the issue of debts should be resolved, as well as compensation to all suffering parties. All parties which have suffered—we cannot say here Iraq has suffered.

Maybe some Kuwaiti families have also suffered, citizens, or other public and private parties. A number of parties have, however, suffered. Therefore, the issue of compensation for all parties which have suffered should meanwhile be settled. However, within the framework of this initiative, a policy must be drawn for Arab oil which, henceforth, no one can violate, and whoever violates it should be deterred. The deterrence should be agreed upon now. If you do not want to adhere amicably, then you must be stopped by force. Only then will the use of force be permitted to stop oil production in Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, or Saudi Arabia—it will be legitimate because it has been agreed upon beforehand. And because this is our money, you want to deprive us of it, so we are not going to allow you to do so.

The Americans said this oil interests us; even if it belongs to you, we must control it and we do not allow playing with it. How about us Arabs among ourselves—this is our livelihood?! Oil has become a matter which provides anyone with a justification to intervene. The lifting of the economic blockade against Iraq, the convening of an Arab summit in Libya to approve the draft for Arab union which solves all these problems and creates an Arab unionist presidency council consisting of the Arab heads of state; a unionist executive council consisting of the Arab prime ministers; and specialist councils for the ministers of industry, agriculture, health, education, and so on and creates Arab unionist projects: oil, gas, cereals, water, scientific research, and so on. [sentence as heard] [faint applause]

On the basis of the views I have gathered from all these parties—and not later than yesterday I contacted a number of Arab parties—they all encourage this initiative [applause] and they value any honorable and peaceful solution which includes compensating the parties which have suffered losses, which is not under U.S. spears, which drives the NATO forces away from the region, and which guarantees reassurance to those who are afraid; such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and others.

In fact, it is their right to feel reassured. They have so far existed as states and regimes. How can we tell them: No, you have no right. They then reply: We have to defend ourselves.

I asked King Fahd: How can you bring in U.S. troops? There is no worse (?sin). He replied: What do you want me to do? Do you want me to end up like Kuwait? I asked him again: Who told you so? He said: By God, even when Kuwait used to say that, we asked her who told you so? He then told me: Honestly, I cannot do otherwise. I want to feel reassured.

This initiative will have to be implemented under the aegis of the UN Secretary General and the Arab League Secretary General. If our brethren accept this proposal, it will achieve peace for the world and peace for the Arabs and it will benefit us, for we will take the oil policy to a new phase where there is no room for recklessness and waste. This will be a great gain and Iraq will deserve all the credit for it if we return to the situation which existed before.

If we win, this factor will help us awaken, and we will no longer play around with oil. This will also spare us a confrontation with a savage power in the world. Even the United States will find its interest in this solution, as it will allow it to back down and peace will be achieved with Arab initiatives and arrangements we ourselves made.

Furthermore, the United States can even lose in this confrontation—therefore, it is itself looking for a solution. It might not lose militarily, but in the end it will lose in the Arab nation.

We would not tolerate the United States war on Arab soil. The problem is not whether she might win militarily or not, the problem is afterward. The United States will remain hated and fought against in the Arab countries. We would not accept it to be our policeman forever. Our brethern in the Arabian peninsula will rest assured once there are international forces in Kuwait. Once Arab and Ismalic forces are there with them, I do not think that Iraq would be attacking Arab and Islamic forces in Saudi Arabia. And they will also be able to rid themselves of their sins in allowing Christian and Jewish forces in the holy lands. We will help them to rid themselves of such sins. Kuwait should be respected as a people and should be allowed self-determination. [chants]

If all the parties do not accept this peaceful initiative, this means that I will have the right—and everyone else is free—to come to the conclusion that there are other things which we do not understand. It will also mean that we are going through the dialogue of the deaf. Like someone who is deaf, who finds himself in a noisy gathering and does not know what to say. He just goes along with everyone else. This also will mean that we are like him; there is more to it, and we do not know what it is.

If matters are as we are seeing them; this should then be the solution and the initiative. However, if this initiative is not implemented, then there should be other things of which we are not aware. And then, we cannot be in a caravan the itinerary of which is not know to us.

Struggle continues.

Peace be upon you.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Sudan's Al-Bashir 2 Sep

LD0309094190 Tripoli JANA in English 0839 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fateh [September] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received yesterday Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in sisterly Sudan.

Present at the meeting were Col. Jabir, Gen. Abu Salih, member of the above council and minister of the interior and the ambassador of Sudan accredited to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

President Receives French Minister on Crisis

AB0209130890 Paris AFP in French 1308 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Nouakchott, (Mauritania), 29 Aug (AFP)—On 28 August Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, Mauritanian head of state, received Mr. Jacques Pelletier, French minister of cooperation. The French minister presented France's position on the Gulf crisis to him.

"We agree that a peaceful solution must be found," Mr. Pelletier said but added that "the deployment of foreign forces in the Gulf may cause Iraq to change direction."

Mr. Pelletier believed that King Husayn of Jordan, expected in Nouakchott today, would be in a better position to mediate. He added that he hoped the meeting scheduled to take place in Amman tomorrow between UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Tariq 'Aziz, will lead to a settlement.

Morocco

Egypt's Ghali Arrives With Message on Gulf

LD0309140490 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Butrus Ghali, arrived in Morocco this morning with a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for His Majesty King Hassan II. The Egyptian official made the following statement at Mohamed V international airport:

[Begin Ghali recording] The mission that I was entrusted with is to convey a message to His Majesty from the president of the Republic of Egypt, and obviously this message is related to the events in the Gulf.

The position of Egyptian diplomacy regarding the events in the Gulf lies in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions that called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwaiti territories. We are working for the implementation of these resolutions, and we hope that Iraq will withdraw from Kuwaiti territory so that we will be able to contain this serious crisis that is threatening the future of the Arab world, and so as to be able to find a peaceful settlement to this crisis.

I would like to add that there is full coordination between Moroccan and Egyptian diplomacy aimed at containing this crisis and finding a peaceful solution to this conflict or crisis, because a peaceful settlement and action for peace are common aims shared by Morocco and Egypt. [end recording]

Paper Deplores Arab Funds 'Squandered' on Arms

LD3108174390 Rabat MAP in English 1221 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 31 (MAP)—Moroccan daily AL-'ALAM deplored the fact that Arab funds be squandered in weapons purchase to the detriment of the Arab citizens's well-being.

In an editorial entitled "Look for the Salesmen of Death", the daily of the Istiqlal party (nationalist-opposition) pointed out that "at a moment the Arab world is threatened by a destructive war, the big weapons manufacturing powers intensify efforts and engage in a race to lay hands not only on the oil market but also on the weapons markets. [no closing quotation mark as received]

The daily noted that in view of the Gulf crisis, the Arab world will be deprived of billions of dollars whether the war is waged or not, for it explained, even if good offices succeed to freeze an overt war, there will be a costy cold war that will last for years.

The huge sums spent for the purchase of weapons will be pocketed by arms producing countries and companies to the detriment of the basic needs and economic and social development of the Arab citizen, the daily said adding that such situation only exacerbate hate among Arabs.

The daily concluded saying that the salesmen of death spare no effort to foil peace because they are the major profit-makers of wars.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Departs for Ceremonies in Libya

EA0109114990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Revolution Command Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir left Khartoum airport this afternoon for Tripoli. His excellency is to sign the executive program of the integration bodies between Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, as well as take part in the celebrations of the 21st anniversary of the Libyan Jamahiriyah's historic Al-Fatih September Revolution. [passage omitted]

Officers Say Iraqi Missiles, Troops in Country

NC0309133990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Sudanese officers stated today that Iraq has deployed Scud missiles and 7,000 Iraqi soldiers on Sudan's eastern coast.

Tunisian Party Leader Urges Jihad, Boycott

EA3108165690 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Aug (SUNA)—Shaykh Rachid Ghanouchi, leader of the Tunisian Islamic movement [Parti de la Renaissance], who is currently visiting the country, has called on Muslims to mobilize and declare a jihad against the foreign forces occupying the Gulf region, and to outlaw dealings in U.S. and Western goods by imposing a commercial boycott on them. Ghanouchi told AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, published in Khartoum today, that by deploying its forces in the Gulf region, America intended to [words indistinct], underpin the Zionist entity, and return the Emirate of Kuwait to the al-Sabah family, which did not represent even one percent of its [word indistinct]. Shaykh Ghanouchi said that by striking at Iraq, the foreign forces deployed in the Gulf would be opening a gateway in turn for attacks on U.S. and Western interests in the world [words indistinct], pointing out that there were some phenomena giving hope that the specter of war might be averted, springing from the move of the Islamic peoples.

In his statement to AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, the leader of the Tunisian Renaissance Party criticized the position adopted by the Egyptian Government toward the events in the Gulf, saying that the Egyptian Government had become the faithful guardian of American and international interests and a supporter of them, after having upheld the Palestinian cause. He said Egypt could have moved to dispel the specter of war. In this respect his excellency appealed to the Islamic movements to rebel against their rulers and give expression to the voice of the nation.

Shaykh Ghanouchi described the formal legal opinions [fatawi] issued by some religious men to justify the foreign presence in the sacred region as hypocritical and a kind of agentry.

Command Council Official Meets Kuwaiti Envoy

EA0409103690 Khartoum SUNA in French 1615 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum 3 Sep (SUNA)—A National Salvation Revolution Command Council member, Colonel Martin Malwal Arop, today in Khartoum met the Kuwaiti ambassador to Sudan, Mr. Abdullah al-Surayya. In a press statement, Col. Arop asserted Sudan's commitment to the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis and stressed the need to settle the issue through dialogue.

Finance Minister on Economic Impact of Crisis

EA3108211190 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 21 Aug

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Aug (SUNA)—Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, the minister of finance and economic planning, has said that the events in the Gulf are producing economic effects leading to the halting of some loans from Arab funds which were based in Kuwait, which in turn would affect vital projects in Sudan. The finance minister told AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH, published here today, that this would have to be compensated for from our own resources and would put further pressure on our hard currency resources.

His excellency went on to say that those events had led to global oil price rises which meant a very big increase in the government subsidy for petroleum product prices and would affect the performance of the budget. He said: We must expect an effect on currency transfers from Sudanese working abroad, as the transfers from Sudanese working in Kuwait will diminish. This will affect other areas too and the volume of remittances will be further reduced. Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, the finance minister, said this matter demanded [word indistinct] attention. Action was being taken to assess the situation in detail with a view to making an appropriate decision within the next few days.

The finance minister also said that in the context of commercial investment it had been decided to authorize the banks to purchase currency from expatriates and sell it to importers at a premium of between 30 and 100 percent. He said this would contribute toward the availability of hard currency from expatriates. He said the commodities which had been defined for commercial investment would be adhered to and that the state would support the matter by acting to make any adjustment necessitated by circumstances and exigencies.

Committee Formed To Study Gulf Crisis Effects

EA0309135490 Khartoum SUNA in English 1023 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Sep (SUNA)—A committee to study the effects of the Gulf crisis on Sudan has been formed by the Revolution Command Council. Daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" said the evaluation and findings of the committee will be given due concern by the government in dealing with the situation at present and in the future. The paper quoted what it called well-placed sources as saying that Sudan will calculate for facing any eventuality and link itself to its potentialities. It quoted the source as saying that the situation was reassuring in any case and might push citizens and the country to leap to development for facing the challenges.

The paper has meanwhile revealed that contacts are currently under way among Islamic figures in the various countries for the formation of a committee to decide the duty of Muslims with regard to the current situation. The said committee includes ulama (Muslim scholars) from Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and other East Asian countries besides Arab countries. It is planning to visit Muslim countries to explain its findings and ways for implementing them.

More Nationals Return From Kuwait via Jordan

EA0109184390 Khartoum SUNA in English 0906 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 1 September (SUNA)—A number of 344 [as received] from the Sudanese expatriates returned here yesterday coming from Kuwait via Jordan on board a plane of the Sudanese Airways. The Sudanese ship of Omdurman is expected to arrive Port Sudan next (?Tuesday) coming from the Jordanian port of al-'Aqaba carrying some Sudanese returnees.

It is to be recalled that the Sudanese concerned authorities have established an operations chamber at Port Sudan and at Khartoum airport to facilitate the transportion of Sudanese coming from Kuwait via Jordan.

Al-Bashir To Address Paris UN Conference

EA0309065090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, will address the second UN conference for the less developed countries opening in Paris on 3 September and continuing until 14 September. [passage omitted]

Officials on Oil Exploration, Utilization

EA3108210890 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Aug (SUNA)—Energy and mining minister, Engineer 'Abd al-Mun'im Khawjali, has affirmed that the government is working for the utilisation of the Sudanese discovered oil, saying that the authorities are currently conducting the necessary steps in this regard. The minister, in a report presented to the Council of Ministers yesterday, [said] exploration operations represent one of the basic pillars of the Sudanese economy in the future.

The cabinet meeting also heard a report by engineer (?Adli 'Abd al-Majid), the director of the Geological Research Corporation, who pointed out that the discovered Sudanese crude amounts to 1,500 million barrels. He said the utilisation of the discovered crude would begin during the period of the three-year economic recovery programme 1990-93, noting that the necessary studies would be completed during the next month.

SPLA Radio Links Military Changes to NIF

EA0309183690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] An informed source in the Armed Forces General Command in Khartoum has told us that the recent campaign of removals and dismissals launched against Armed Forces officers was one of the schemes and plans of the National Islamic Front [NIF] aimed at replacing the Armed Forces with the NIF's militias. The plan was to remove 92 officers, among them six with the rank of general. The six are: Major General Ahmad al-Zayn, Artillery Division; Major General Ahmad al-Numayri, Maintenance Corps commander; Major General al-Sharif al-Aqib, military attache, Cairo; Major General 'Uthman al-Qoz, military attache, Chad; Major General Faysal al-Shaf'i, Artillery Division commander; and Major General 'Uthman Abu Kondo, from the Republican Guards. Among them are 19 brigadiers, 39 colonels, and 28 ranging from lieutenant colonel to lieutenant. We shall provide you with the names as they reach us.

Tunisia

'Arafat Briefs President on Peace Efforts

LD3108132890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali today received Palestinian President and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Following this meeting, Yasir 'Arafat made a statement in which he said that within the context of the Arab moves in these difficult and fateful circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing as a result of the explosive crisis in the Gulf region and its impact on the whole of pan-Arab security, his excellency the president was acquainted with the results of the tour he made of a number of Arab states and France in order to achieve a peaceful solution within an Arab context, away from the war drums which the United States and a number of its allies in this region are beating, and the far-reaching explosion which this would mean, in which there would be no victors but a loss for all. He said that views are identical concerning the need to continue the efforts to achieve a peaceful Arab solution to this crisis. He expressed optimism at reaching this good result if such cooperation continues.

President Calls 11 Sep Extraordinary Session

LD3109173190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali has decided to summon the Chamber of Deputies to convene in an extraordinary session, in accordance with Article 29 of the Constitution.

This was announced by Slaheddine Baly, following his audience with the president at Carthage presidential palace. The speaker stated that this session, which will convene on 11 September 1990, will review Tunisia's position regarding the Gulf crisis in light of the president's announcement of 11 August 1990. The session will also review the Tunisian diplomatic flurry characterized by the visits to Tunisia of presidents and senior officials from friendly and sisterly countries, and also the diplomatic efforts that have been made by Tunisia since the beginning of hte crisis.

Slaheddine Baly reiterated to the president the praise of the Chamber of Deputies regarding the 11 August statement.

Bahrain

Eyewitnesses Cited on Iraqi Missile Deployment

NC0409142890 Paris AFP in English 1359 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, Sept 4 (AFP)—Iraq has deployed at least three truck-mounted missile batteries near Kuwait City, witnesses who recently fled the Iraqi-occupied emirate said here Tuesday.

The two Bahrainis, both familiar with military affairs, said the surface-to-surface missiles were marked Al-Husayn, Al-'Abbas, and Al-Saddam.

Al-Husayn is the best-known of Iraq's arsenal of ballistic missiles. It is an improved version of the Soviet-made Scud-B missile and has a range of 600 kilometres (370 miles).

During the Iran-Iraq conflict, Moscow supplied Baghdad with several hundred Scud missiles, which lack precision but caused heavy damage in attacks on Iranian cities.

Al-'Abbas has a range of 900 kilometres (550 miles), according to Iraq's minister of military industries, Husayn Kamil. After its test firing in April 1988, he said it was an improved version of Al-Husayn.

The other missile, Al-Saddam, named after Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, is also a converted Scud-B, but less is known of its capabilities.

The Bahraini witnesses, who declined to be named, said the Iraqi Army had deployed several heavy tanks, anti-aircraft batteries and multi-barreled rocket launchers on the seafront at Kuwait City.

Kuwait

Resistance Inflicts Casualties on Iraqi Troops

NC0309093590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] The Cairo-based Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' has reported that Kuwaiti resistance fighters conducted several military operations against the Iraqi forces in Kuwait during the past two days, killing four Iraqi soldiers and injuring 16 others. According to the paper, four other Iraqi troops turned themselves and their tanks over to Saudi forces several days ago.

Amir, President Bush Discuss Gulf Situation

LD3108200790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1848 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Aug (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait, held a telephone conversation last night with His Excellency U.S. President George Bush. Radio of Kuwait added that a review of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, as well as the latest development in the Arab Gulf region following the perfidious Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait, took place during the conversation.

Newspaper To Begin Publication in Jeddah

NC0309171190 Cairo MENA in English 1645 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, September 3 (MENA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH will be published as of tomorrow, Tuesday, in Jeddah and be distributed all over the Arab world. The paper's editor-in-chief, Ahmad Jarallah, said that the paper will expose all the Iraqi allegations against Gulf kings and emirs and reveal many secrets about the regime of Saddam Husayn. For the first few weeks, issues of AL-SIYASAH will contain eight pages. Afterward, the paper will appear in 16-page issues. AL-SIYASAH and other Kuwaiti newspapers have not been published since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2 .

New Government Radio To Transmit From Cairo

JN0109150190 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] A new Kuwaiti radio using Cairo Voice of the Arabs frequencies will begin transmission within the next few hours. Publishing this today, the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM says the radio expresses the voice of the government and people of Kuwait and transmits programs over two periods: the first for one hour from 0700 to 0800 Cairo time [0400-0500 GMT] and the second for three hours from 1900 to 2200 [1600-1900 GMT]. The paper adds that the new radio will transmit under the name of "This is Kuwait" and is beamed to the Gulf region. Its programs are primarily political.

Saudi Arabia

Jewish Soldiers' Visit to Al-Madinah Denied

LD3108224190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2240 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Aug (SPA)—A military official in the Joint Command told SPA today:

Persisting in its foolish campaign and in its contempt for the sanctity of the Arab and Islamic public, Baghdad radio has gone to great lengths in issuing lies obvious to everyone, alleging in its news bulletin that a number of Jewish soldiers [Americans] will pay a visit to the holy city of al-Madinah to look for Jewish remains.

The spokesman also said:

While deriding the foolishness of Iraqi information which has begun to act erratically and blindly in the darkness of crimes and sins into which the ruler of Baghdad has sunk, the Joint Command wants to reiterate its categorical denial of these fabrications, returning them to their sources, which are known for their perfidy and treason.

Defense Minister Gives News Conference

LD0109204290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, has said that the presence of Islamic, Arab, or friendly forces in the Kingdom depends on two matters: first, the completion of the task for which these forces have come; second, the Kingdom's request for the withdrawal of these forces.

His royal highness added in a news conference he held today following his visit to the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Air Base in the eastern region that the defense of the Kingdom comes from God the Almighty first, and then from the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His royal highness pointed out that the arrival of forces from the Arab, Islamic, and friendly countries is aimed at supporting the Saudi Armed Forces in the defense of the Kingdom. Answering a question on the size of the U.S. and Egyptian forces, his royal highness explained that the Kingdom had called for a multinational force in accordance with the resolution of the Security Council and the resolution of the Cairo extraordinary summit and the Islamic Foreign Ministers conference to preserve peace. His royal highness went on to say that the Kingdom does not define the size of this forces; rather it left it to every state to decide what it can do to serve Islam and to demonstrate right. His royal highness expressed in this context appreciation for Egypt, and said: Our brothers in Egypt do not hesitate in any thing. His royal highness pointed out that any increase in Arab, Islamic, or other forces is left to the command itself as it defines what it wants. Answering a question on the extent of the coordination among the forces in the Kingdom, his royal highness explained that there is a joint Saudi command, which has the the right to supervise and coordinate among the forces of various nationalities. His royal highness confirmed that aggression of any kind by the Kingdom against any Arab country was out of the question. His royal highness said that what is in the cards is that any aggression against the Kingdom will be repelled.

Concerning the problem of foreign hostages detained by Iraq, his royal highness confirmed that Iraq's behavior against them is a matter which reason and the principles of human rights do not approve of. His royal highness said we are against the taking of hostages, and for allowing foreigners the freedom to leave for their countries. His royal highness added that any foreigner has the right to be respected, and if he wants to leave let him do so freely, unless he has committed a security crime against a citizen. His royal highness pointed out that the way in which the hostages leave is a matter left to the concerned states themselves. In this context his royal highness pointed out that the Kingdom is not an arena for any non-defensive behaviour. His royal highness went on to say: I do not believe that there is a state which has requested or will request that the Kingdom mediate in the freeing of any hostage in Iraq. As it is known, not only the Americans have hostages: several states do, and each state should strive for the safety of its individuals and people in the manner it sees fit. His royal highness renewed the Kingdom's request that Iraq respond to the call for unconditional withdrawal from sister Kuwait and its return to legitimacy.

His royal highness stated that it would be irrelevant and premature to try to predict Iraq's refusal to withdraw. He added that this is an international matter, and it does not concern a single state only. He said that there are collective resolutions by the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and the Arab summit that call for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

His royal highness indicated that UN Security Council resolutions form the basis for an unconditional withdrawal from sisterly Kuwait and for the restoration of its legitimacy. His royal highness expressed his belief that the economic blockade imposed by the UN Security Council against Iraq calls for peace more that it calls for war.

Answering a question on Iraq's decision to annex Kuwait, his royal highness said that this is an illegitimate and totally unacceptable matter. He pointed out that Kuwait is an independent and sovereign state. His royal highness added: I would like to stress that when Iraq invaded Kuwait, it alleged that a military coup took place against the rulers of Kuwait. This means that a coup can only take place in a sovereign state. Then decisions followed, and Iraq turned the existing regime in Kuwait into a republic: this also means that a change of regime in Kuwait implies that it is a sovereign state.

His royal highness stressed that to consider Kuwait a part of Iraq is a void and utterly unacceptable matter. His royal highness emphasized that war is a calamity. He said war should be the last resort against any human being in this world.

Regarding a question on planning for war, his royal highness replied that this is a job for planners. He said we pray to God that such plans will not be put into practice. His royal highness went on to say that this does not mean that there is no readiness. Readiness for war is the first step toward peace. When there are forces willing to accept peace, the way for peace can be easier.

Regarding a question on his royal highness's expectations as to whether a diplomatic solution could bring about a settlement to the crisis, his royal highness said: we hope so, but not without a total and unconditional withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy to sisterly Kuwait.

To a question on whether there were any quicker ways to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, other than the economic blockade, his royal highness Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said that predictions should not come from a country that strives for peace and amity. His royal highness added: When we talk and predict what is going to happen, then we might close the door to what could

have happened; I hope therefore that we can be always more optimistic than pessimistic.

To a question on the use of chemical gas by the Iraqi president, his royal highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-'al-'Aziz said: I hope that he will realize that this is a common harm because he would be inflicting harm on his brothers. However, we realize that he is also aware that we have the capability to ward this off.

On a question regarding Saudi strategy following the end of the crisis, his royal highness stated: We will announce that in time, in a way that will please you. His royal highness was asked about the measures taken by the government of King Fahd to protect the Kingdom's other borders. His royal highness said that God protects you, and God and the whole Saudi people protect our borders and our wise policy.

His Highness added that we pray to Almighty God to be with those about whom Almighty God has said: For God is with those who retain themselves and those who do good. We are, thanks be to God, pious, God-fearing, and good Muslims. We will be charitable to all people.

Replying to a question on the forces deployed with Saudi forces at the battle fronts—within the framework of the Kingdom's various units—his highness said: Our brothers, the Egyptians, the Syrians, and the Moroccans—as well as those from the countries of the Gulf, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan—will take part with us. The National Guard will also take part, with all its forces: an effective part along with the four [Saudi] armies, in addition to the forces of public security, the border guards, and the civil defense forces. And more importantly, the Saudi people as a whole, volunteering and mobilizing under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques and his highness the crown prince.

Replying to a question, his highness answered Saddam Husayn's allegations about the presence of foreign forces in the holy places, saying: You know as well as the Iraqi brothers, who should know better, that no one has ever come to the protection or to the help of the two holy mosques save the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; nothing else to the contrary has ever happened. His highness pointed out that the Iraqis can say whatever they like—stressing, however, that they know that what they are saying is false.

Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said—replying to a curious question asked by someone who was astonished at what Iraq had done despite the Kingdom's aid to it during its war with Iran—that the Kingdom has exerted efforts and furnished assistance to the brothers in Iraq. This does not mean, however, that we have forgotten our own Armed Forces. His highness added that the Armed Forces are making firm steps, using scientific and technical means. His highness went on to say that when we invited Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces, this means a force for peace: to safeguard peace and deterrence in the face of any would-be aggressor. His highness the second deputy prime minister, the minister of defense and aviation, and the inspector general invited Arab, Muslim, and friendly media not to heighten matters, and added: Respectable press is a strong weapon, which should define our stance—one which will take us all, God willing, to peace: a matter that will be beneficial to peace and tranquillity in our international community.

Yemen

Salih, Bush Discuss Gulf Conflict Over Phone

JN0209072790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, held a telephone conversation with U.S. President George Bush. They discussed bilateral relations and exchanged viewpoints on the current situation in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula and ways of avoiding an armed conflict.

Jesse Jackson, 'Aziz Discuss Gulf Situation

JN3008135090 Baghdad INA in English 1148 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 30, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, met here today Mr. Jesse Jackson.

During the meeting, situation in the Arab Gulf Region in the light of threats posed by the extensive American buildup on security and stability in the entire region was discussed. [sentence as received]

Mr. 'Aziz explained Iraq's historical and legitimate rights in Kuwait, and President Saddam Husayn's initiative on Aug 12 as being the sound foundation for reaching just and equitable solutions for all issues from which the region suffer, particularly suffering of the Palestinian people and their legitimate struggle for realising equity on their land and in free and independent homeland.

Meets With Saddam

JN3008185890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1813 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] We have just received the following: Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Jesse Jackson, a former candidate for the U.S. Presidency.

During the meeting they discussed the situation in the region and current developments. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Interviews President

JN3108202290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1957 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn today received former U.S. presidential candidate Jesse Jackson.

Jesse Jackson conducted a press interview with His Excellency President Saddam on developments in the Gulf region, the threat in the buildup of U.S. troops and fleets there, the troops' desecration of holy land in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], the chances for an easing of tensions, and the opportunities for a political and diplomatic solution.

Health Reasons Allow Six American Men To Leave

JN0109102490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1004 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] The Iraqi authorities have permitted the departure from Kuwait of six U.S. male citizens who have health problems. This was announced by the director of Iraqi Information, who explained that Reverend Jesse Jackson, who is currently visiting Baghdad, had left for Kuwait aboard an Iraqi plane to transport the six U.S. men, prior to returning them to the United States this evening.

The director of Iraqi Information has also stated that a group of western women and children will also leave for Washington and London this evening after two Iraqi civilian planes had obtained landing permits in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Planes To Fly Out U.S., UK, Japan Nationals

JN0109140190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep 90 (INA)—Two Iraqi planes are to fly out 132 Britons and 14 Americans this evening, along with a number of Americans with medical conditions in the Governorate of Kuwait, following orders from His Excelleny President Saddam Husayn that they be allowed to leave for home.

According to an official spokesman at the Ministry of Information and Culture, Iraqi Airways has been cleared by British and U.S. authorities to transport British and American women and children. Ground services and fuel are also to be provided to Iraqi planes at American and British airports.

Iraq is still awaiting a response from the French authorities to a similar request made two days ago. The source wondered why the French authorities have yet to respond to this humanitarian request.

He indicated that the subject of ailing Americans was raised a few days ago and that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn had ordered that a team of Iraqi medical specialists be assigned to look after them. Former U.S. presidential hopeful the Reverend Jesse Jackson brought up the subject with President Saddam Husayn, who then ordered that they be flown out with Mr. Jackson aboard the Iraqi plane, along with the American and British women and children this evening.

He said the Reverend Jesse Jackson was this morning flown by a special Iraqi plane to Kadhimah, the capital of the Governorate of Kuwait, to fetch the ailing Americans ahead of their departure later today. The source said that another Iraqi plane will simultaneously fly out 66 Japanese and other nationals to Amman. Arrangements have been made for foreign media personnel in Baghdad to see the departing foreigners before they board their flights.

INA Reports on Exit of Foreign Women, Children

JN0209051690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2107 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—Pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's order allowing Iraq's guests to either leave for their countries or stay in Iraq, a group of foreign nationals—women and children—left Baghdad tonight.

In statements to INA, the departing guests expressed appreciation for the good hospitality they received and the services extended to them during their stay in Iraq. They described President Saddam Husayn's initiative of

giving them the choice to leave or to stay in Iraq as an initiative of love and peace that reflects Iraq's humanitarian stands.

Envoy to U.S. on Reasons for Foreigners' Return

JN0209164890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Washington, 2 Sep (INA)—An Iraqi Boeing-747 jet landed at Dulles Airport today carrying a number of Americans allowed to leave Iraq. They were accompanied by Reverend Jesse Jackson, who visited Iraq and met with President Saddam Husayn.

The American nationals were received at the airport by a number of State Department officials and Iraqi Ambassador in Washington Muhammad al-Mashshat. In a statement at the airport, the ambassador said that allowing women and children to leave Iraq and Kuwait and transporting them on an Iraqi plane were signs of Iraq's sincere peaceful intentions and desire for dialogue, as well as its efforts to solve the crisis through peaceful means and avoid statements and positions that might lead to a destructive war in the region. He also stressed that Iraq is ready to allow the rest of the foreign nationals to leave Iraq and Kuwait if the United States undertakes not to launch an aggression against Iraq.

Proposal To Release Japanese If Sanctions Lifted

OW0309130790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 3 KYODO—Iraq called on Japan Monday to partly lift sanctions in return for release of Japanese men being held as "human shields" at strategic installations across Iraq.

Iraqi Cultural and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim said in an exclusive interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Iraq will release the Japanese hostages, if the Japanese Government partly lifts sanctions to allow his country to export oil, and import foods and medicines.

On the location of 141 Japanese men who were taken away by Iraqi authorities from a Baghdad hotel after fleeing Iraqi-occupied Kuwait on August 23, Jasim said they are staying at airport, military, and oil installations, and that there is no worry since they are treated as guests with great care.

He said Iraq called for Japan's partial lifting of sanctions through the Iraqi ambassador to Tokyo, but that there has been no response from the Japanese Government. Jasim suggested his government wants to hold negotiations with Japan linking the release of the Japanese with lifting sanctions, saying that Iraq does not demand an immediate and total lifting of sanctions.

Japan imposed a ban on oil imports and all other trade with Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, and froze 400 billion yen in economic assistance to Iraq on August 5 following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2. It is Japan that would be affected by economic sanctions, he said. Japan imported 227,000 barrels of oil per day from Iraq, 6 percent of Japan's total crude oil imports, in the first half of 1990. Jasim criticized Japan's package of nonmilitary assistance to the multinational forces deployed to the Persian Gulf. He said Japan is helping the United States in dirtying the holy site of Mecca.

Air France Plane Unable To Land in Baghdad

NC0209183890 Paris AFP in English 1824 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 2 (AFP)—An Air France plane due to transport foreigners out of Baghdad early Monday had not received permission to land in the Iraqi capital by late Sunday, Western aviation sources said here. The plane had been expected to return to Paris on Monday at 9.30 (0730 GMT).

Earlier in the day, 27 French women and children released by Baghdad had arrived in Europe on an Iraqi Airlines flight. France later received agreement in principle from Iraq for an Air France jet to fly to Baghdad, with the understanding it could leave the Iraqi capital with passengers of French and other nationalities.

Aviation sources here said traffic at the Baghdad airport was normal. In addition, an Aeroflot plane was expected later Sunday to take home Soviet citizens. More than 600 people, mostly Western women and children, flew out of Baghdad for Amman and points in Western Europe at the weekend. Iraqi authorities had held them to deter a potential attack by the United States and its allies following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Meanwhile the foreign ministry in Rome said 24 Italian women and children arrived in Baghdad from Kuwait Saturday night and were filling out forms so they could leave via Jordan. They will be the third group of Italians let out in the last few days, and their departure will leave only "about 60" Italians in Kuwait, including about 10 women and children.

An initial group of 25 Italians arrived Saturday in Rome, while 24 others were to leave Baghdad for Amman Sunday night, making the 13-hour trip through the desert by bus, the ministry said. They were expected to reach Amman Monday. This group were wives and children of technicians working in the Gulf region for five Italian firms, including auto maker Fiat and the national petroleum company ENI [National Hydrocarbons Corporation].

Meanwhile at least 1,300 Western women and children, already issued visas, are still waiting to leave Iraq and Kuwait, according to figures compiled by AFP. In London, officials at Heathrow airport said 12 Britons—including two crewmembers from a British Airways flight stranded in Kuwait since August 2—had arrived at Heathrow on a Lufthansa flight after leaving Baghdad via Frankfurt, West Germany.

Landing Rights Issue Linked to Ban on Iraq Air

JN0309063990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Excerpt] It seems that foreign nationals leaving Iraq will be affected by the obstacles placed by their countries in the face of Iraq Airways' planes. Iraq has declared that unless there is a change in the Western states' policy toward Iraqi Airways, the departing Westerners will have to wait for the scheduled flights to Amman, which is Iraqi Airways' only destination, or travel by land to Jordan. Iraq affirmed that unless the West lifts its ban on Iraqi Airways, Iraq will not be ready to allow Western airlines to land at Iraqi airports. The French plane that was scheduled to transport 27 women and children whom Iraq allowed to leave has not obtained permission to go to Baghdad. An Iraqi official declared that the Lufthansa plane that landed in Baghdad the day before yesterday and carried over 300 foreign nationals was an exceptional case. About 700 Western and Japanese women and children have flown out of Baghdad to the West during the past 48 hours. [passage omitted]

AFP Cites Official Source on Ban on Foreign Planes

NC0309145590 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 3 (AFP)—Iraq will bar landing rights to all non-Iraqi aircraft wishing to repatriate foreign nationals from Baghdad as long as Iraqi planes are prevented from using foreign airports, an official source here said Monday.

He described the measure as "an act of reciprocity."

Iraq is currently subject to sweeping United Nations trade sanctions, which have prevented Iraqi commercial flights from landing abroad. The measure was imposed by the Security Council to protest the August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraqi authorities are holding thousands of foreigners to deter a potential attack from the United States and its allies.

But President Saddam Husayn last week authorized the departure of foreign women and children, an estimated 700 of whom flew out of Baghdad over the weekend.

'Aziz Demands Countries Supply Food for Nationals

JN0309195690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1926 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has urged those countries having a great number of nationals in Iraq to take urgent measures to provide Iraq with quantities of foodstuffs to enable it to meet the needs of those nationals.

The foreign minister told Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], during a meeting with him today that Iraq, which is suffering from the consequences of the imperialist blockade, will not be responsible for the suffering of those nationals resulting from any shortage of food supplies.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz expressed the hope that the ICRC will help make the countries concerned take such steps and provide food for foreign nationals in Iraq.

The deputy prime minister and Mr. Sommaruga discussed the ICRC's role of taking care of the humanitarian aspects that fall under its jurisdiction, and reviewed the details relating to the release of prisoners and their return to their home countries.

In this regard, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Iraq is fully prepared to cooperate with the ICRC in carrying out its tasks in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention concerning the comprehensive release of prisoners as soon as possible and in dealing with all issues related to them in a spirit of good will.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Organizations and Legal departments, and the delegation accompanying Mr. Sommaruga.

U.S. Said To Block Food Aid To Nationals

JN0409084890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated the following: As a result of the imperialist blockade from which Iraq is suffering, several states that have a large number of nationals in Iraq have expressed their desire to supply Iraq with foodstuffs. They have also expressed their readiness to send urgent food aid to their nationals in Iraq. However, the United States, out of its determination to tighten the grip of its inhuman blockade against Iraq, has prevented these states from making a move in this direction.

The spokesman pointed out that in light of the economic blockade, Iraq will not be responsible for the suffering of these nationals as a result of shortage of foodstuffs. Iraq announces that the United States is fully responsible for the suffering of hundreds of thousands of the nationals of a large number of states, particularly the Asian states.

[Dated] 4 September 1990

Mailboxes Allocated for Foreign Nationals

JN0409111890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1039 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The National Assembly has issued an announcement inviting all families and friends seeking to correspond with foreign guests in Iraq to direct their letters to mailboxes allocated for this purpose. The following is the text of the announcement:

From the National Assembly to all families and friends of foreign guests in Iraq. Out of the desire to facilitate fast postal contacts with foreign guests in Iraq and give them the greatest possible care, and in the light of the

desire expressed by a number of guests during President Saddam Husayn's inspection visit to them, it has been decided to allocate mailboxes, called peace mailboxes, whose numbers are indicated below, so that anyone wishing to correspond with the foreign guests may direct his letters to these boxes.
Post Office Box No. 39090 Baghdad, Iraq;
Post Office Box No. 50300 Baghdad, Iraq;
Post Office Box No. 50285 Baghdad, Iraq.
[Signed] The National Assembly

Editor Reacts to Thatcher Comments on Saddam

JN0209151590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1407 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—Reacting to Margaret Thatcher's remarks to the British ITN television network yesterday, the INA [Iraqi News Agency] international affairs editor writes: His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's initiative allowing British women and children to be flown out of Iraq has led the old hag to fly into a temper and shoot her arrows right and left.

He adds: Thatcher seems to think that this strident approach will boost her chances in the coming elections, which she is bound to lose. In public opinion polls, her popularity has never plummeted so low. The INA international affairs editor says Iraq has no fear from the empty bluster and outmoded mentality of the British Government based as it is on domination, old colonialism, and disdain for the people's will.

Thatcher's canine, harsh voice shall not dissuade us from pursuing our effort to acquire advanced technology so as to build Arab capability and promote a dignified life. The old hag Thatcher seems to have been upset by the permission given women and children to leave Iraq as she had wanted to make an issue of them in her electoral campaign.

How cynical, selfish, and inhuman she can be just to advance her political fortunes. Thatcher would do well to bear in mind that the empire on whose possessions the sun did not go down has long been defunct, and neither she nor any of her allies will be able to set the clock back.

Saddam Said To Set Two Conditions for Withdrawal

JN0409102990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is ready to hold negotiations and withdraw from Kuwait if he gets guarantees that the United States will not undertake any military action against Iraq and if he can keep part of the Kuwaiti territory. This was asserted by Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] in a statement to Paris LIBERATION.

Iraq Suspends Granting Visas to Journalists

NC0209140590 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 2 (AFP)—Iraqi authorities decided Sunday to suspend temporarily the granting of visas to journalists and asked those covering the Gulf crisis here since August 27 to leave, an official said. The measure was taken because of the large number of reporters currently in the Iraqi capital, "particularly from the television networks," he said, adding that some 300 journalists were now in Baghdad.

The journalists have been covering developments since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and its annexation of the emirate six days later. The official said correspondents who obtain an entry permit once the ban has expired would be limited to a five-day stay.

Ministry To Facilitate Journalists' Access

JN0209194890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—A Culture and Information Ministry official this evening denied the expulsion of any journalist from Iraq.

There are now more than 220 foreign journalists and television and radio correspondents in Iraq, with the Ministry allowing them access to whatever facilitates their task to acquaint themselves with the situation in Iraq and the country's position on American threats of war and aggression.

The Ministry has received applications from over 280 other journalists and television and radio correspondents to come to Iraq, the source added. It is for this reason that the Ministry has asked journalists who have been in Iraq over five days to make room for others to take their place.

The spokesman said the Ministry seeks to provide the requisite facilities for journalists and these could not be made available if all were to remain in the country. The Ministry welcomes applications by journalists wishing to come to Iraq and will facilitate their arrival in groups.

Ration Cards Issued for Basic Commodities

NC0209140090 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 2 (AFP)—Iraqi authorities have begun to issue ration cards here for the purchase of basic commodities, correspondents reported Sunday. On the rationing list are: rice, flour, cooking oil, tea, sugar, soap, detergent, milk for infants, potatoes and beans.

Iraq is currently the target of sweeping United Nations trade sanctions, imposed August 6 to protest its invasion of Kuwait four days earlier.

Shamir Views Arab Divisiveness; Praises Bush

TA3108162090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that we are currently witnessing a rift in the Arab world, with part of it supporting the United States and the free world, and another part supporting Saddam Husayn. It is clear to us that if the target were not Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, but Israel, that divisiveness would disappear—and I admit this sadly, noted the prime minister. This is why Israel is trying to maintain a low profile and to keep out of the crisis.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Shamir was speaking at a meeting in his office today with a delegation representing the Anti-Defamation League.

The prime minister added that we in Israel support and appreciate the policy of the U.S. Administration and its leader, President Bush, during these trying times of the Gulf crisis. He wished to transmit, via the delegation, his appreciation for the U.S. President and his support for the administration's policy on the crisis.

Shamir Believes U.S. To Provide Needed Weapons

TA0209181790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister says that he believes that, in light of the Gulf crisis, Israel will receive from the United States the weapons and other equipment it needs. He claimed that Israel habitually objects to the sale of arms to countries that do not maintain peaceful relations with it, and will continue to hold that view also with respect to the weapons the United States has promised regional countries that have cooperated with it in the crisis.

Sources Deny Report on Weapons

TA0209053890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Israeli security sources deny a NEW YORK TIMES report that U.S. President Bush has already decided to supply Israel with $1 billion of new weapons. They said the list of weapons reportedly being sought by Israel includes those that Jerusalem is clearly not interested in obtaining, such as M-60 tanks. Other weapons, such as the Apache attack helicopter, were agreed upon before the Gulf crisis.

The military sources said the agreement to supply 60 F-16 fighter jets was made in the wake of the 1987 decision by Jerusalem to cancel the Lavi fighter jet project. The sources said Israel has requested to purchase air defense systems and Patriot missile batteries. The sources said they expect Washington to respond to the Israeli request within several weeks.

Moda'i To Ask Washington for More Immigrant Aid

TA0409055590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Moda'i says he plans to ask the U.S. Government for additional aid to settle new immigrants when he visits Washington later this month. The minister said he will also ask the United States to write off some of Israel's debts. The finance minister told reporter Harley Braidman that if the reports are true that the administration plans to write off some of Egypt's debts, then Israel should be given the same treatment. [passage omitted]

Further on Moda'i Request

TA0309184090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i this evening addressed the 40th anniversary congress of Israel Bonds here in Jerusalem. Reporter Harley Braidman asked him whether he expects the United States to act toward Israel as it did with Egypt and write off the debts:

[Begin Moda'i recording] Oh, definitely. I do not see how they can avoid it. Egypt has been getting the aid because of the State of Israel since Camp David, because the U.S. Administration and Congress have equalized Egypt to us. As a matter of fact, each time there was a change in the allowances or aid that we received, Egypt received the parallel sum. Now, it does not make any sense that now that Egypt gets a waiver, Israel will stay out of it. It is ridiculous. [passage omitted] [end recording]

USSR, U.S. Strategy on Ending Crisis Viewed

TA0309114890 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Sep 90 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir, REUTER from London, Eliyahu Zehavi in Copenhagen, and Shraga Zeiger]

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union may offer a political compromise to the Persian Gulf crisis: an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait in return for an Israeli pullback from the territories and the security strip in southern Lebanon. This proposal was reported by Arab sources [not further specified].

U.S. officials told Israeli diplomats in Washington in unofficial conversations that the administration will not accept a comprehensive deal at Israel's expense. Political sources in Israel believe that President Bush will oppose such a deal. According to the U.S. officials, the status of Iraq, a totalitarian country that forcefully took over another country, cannot be compared to Israel's status in the territories. [passage omitted]

Israel will closely monitor the summit deliberations in an effort to foil a political deal at its expense. Jerusalem believes that during the summit the United States will express readiness to accelerate the Middle East political process by launching a political dialogue between Israel and the Arab countries that oppose Iraq. The assessment

in Israel is that in view of the U.S. disappointment with the PLO, or the de facto rift between them, the United States does not regard the PLO as a partner in the political process, at least not at the current stage. [passage omitted]

Meridor Terms Gulf Crisis 'Serious Test' for West

TA0209102990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Shalom Qital on the daily "It Is All Talk" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Qital] In recent weeks, Minister Meridor and the entire cabinet have been keeping a low profile in matters pertaining to the crisis in the Persian Gulf. Good morning, Minister Meridor.

[Meridor] Good morning.

[Qital] It seems that the man from Baghdad is at least scoring points in the war of nerves against the West.

[Meridor] I am not at all certain. As you said, we are keeping a low profile, and I believe we are doing the right thing. There is a difficulty in every interview related to the Iraqi issue, because we do not want to say superfluous things about it. I believe this is a most serious test for the West, which is led by the United States. In the wake of the great change brought on by the decline of the Soviet Union, the world is adapting to a situation in which there are no longer two superpowers running the world—at least not to the extent as in the past.

Right now, the world is trying to set new rules. I think that if the world determines that a country such as Iraq can break all the accepted rules; that it can overnight swallow a country without any prior provocation; annex it and turn it into a part of itself; take foreign nationals and make them hostages; threaten the world with chemical weapons; and so on and so forth—in such a case, I do not think it is up to us to counsel the Americans or anybody else as to what course of action they should take. They are taking the course they have chosen themselves.

[Qital] And if the man escapes unscathed, there is a risk that Israel will come out the loser from the whole affair.

[Meridor] As I said before, any unnecessary remarks of ours will help Saddam Husayn to present this struggle as a Zionist-American battle and an imperialist-Zionist plot, which will help him convince the world in which he lives, the Arab world.

[Qital] This is truly a pretty serious dilemma, Dan Meridor, because we are making efforts to keep a low profile; we heed the U.S. advice—or perhaps warnings—to keep quiet. However, the man is likely to elude them. The question is why not adopt the opposite tactic? Let the United States know that as far as we are concerned, the man must be eliminated.

[Meridor] First of all, we do not take advice—and certainly not warnings—from the United States. I think it is in our interest to allow them to define this move, which is directed against Iraq and its deeds, and against the man. I believe any method Israel can use to help finalize this move without actual Israeli intervention will be good for us. I also think that Israeli involvement at this point will make things easier for him, not for the Americans. Therefore, the issue here is not the Americans' advice, but Israel's interests.

What we want from this situation and what our relations with Iraq are is obvious to all, including the Americans. I do not believe anything further should be said publicly at this juncture. We should, however—and I know we are doing just that—listen and observe the developments in which we have a stake.

[Qital] Will a political compromise be disadvantageous to us, Dan Meridor?

[Meridor] I am not going to advise the Americans on how to end the crisis, but it is obvious that if the crisis ends allowing the man who took such actions to keep his prey—or even half of it—the lesson will be most unsavory for the entire world. Iraq will realize that this lesson applies to more than Kuwait; others will understand the same. If things end this way, the impressive coalition the United States is trying to consolidate against Iraq will ask itself some questions.

As I said before, the United States, Israel, and others should realize that this crisis is not limited to the question of whether it is Bush that wins, or whether it is Saddam. The crisis will set new game rules for the world, including the Middle East. It is important to the United States no less than it is to us—and it is important to the entire free world—that the rules which emerge from this crisis are not ones which include this awful blackmail effected through hostage-taking and the overnight annexation of a country which disagreed with its opponent's negotiating terms but which made no provocative or bellicose moves. None of this should be part of the world in which we would like to live. [passage omitted]

Commentary Considers Defense Capabilities

TA0309140390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Sep 90 p B1

[Commentary by Avraham Schweitzer: "When the Policeman Takes His Time"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Being the Arab world's most long-standing and all-out subject for hatred, Israel is a political asset for Iraq. To capitalize on this asset, it is enough to spread propaganda linking Israel with the real and frightening enemy, the United States. Although a conscientious effort is being made at the moment to conceal it, this link is an accepted political given. Saddam Husayn does not lack for enemies with visible military might. The provocation of Israel—by sending his army to Jordan or attacking it with missiles and

airplanes—could hardly add to his propaganda gains, but would bring Iraq a reaction ten times more severe than the original provocation.

However, unlike Saddam Husayn's pretended despair, an element of true despair is gradually seeping into the thoughts of pro-Americans in the region. We do not lack for analysts and political clairvoyants who try to console us by deriding those of little faith and by pointing to the logistical difficulties involved in the preparation of a U.S. punitive action, although they promise that the difficulties will decrease with time. Others make do with even more frivolous cliches such as "this is the way superpowers behave." Nevertheless, the question persists: Is there still a policeman attending to world order either by his very presence or by waving his stick over the heads of delinquents, or has the policeman turned in his badge and gun, leaving behind a feeling of nostalgia for a world ruled by order and stability? It is easy to see how, when a policeman does not show up immediately, one starts getting the feeling that he does no longer exists.

This applies not least to Israel. Its security is based on three pillars, the link to the United States being one of them. And, it makes no difference whether this link is written and sealed or that it is so strong that it does not require formalization. At one time, when the possibility of signing an official bilateral defense pact was being discussed, some people laughed the very idea off, saying that when the time comes the Americans would find plenty of excuses, along the lines of "sit tight and do nothing." However, what has happened so far in the Gulf crisis gives rise to bitter thoughts in the exact opposite direction. This time there is no doubt that the United States is fundamentally ready to defend its proteges in the desert; the question is how long will it take them to get ready? Will Israel be able to afford to wait for the arrival of U.S. help even if it enjoys—which is not very likely—the enthusiastic support of the U.S. Administration, Congress, and public opinion? Even if the Gulf crisis ends for the best as far as Israel is concerned, this question will crop up again, particularly if the analysts are right in their assertion that after the Gulf "it will be Israel's turn."

Australian Report Says Nuclear Missiles in Israel

TA0309202190 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] A secret report from Australian intelligence says that Israel has nuclear bombs, and that its surface-to-surface missiles are already equipped with nuclear warheads. The report also stipulates that Iraq will need about 15 years more to develop a nuclear bomb.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus quotes the (Tanyug) Sydney press agency. The information was published in Australia today in THE AUSTRALIAN. According to the newspaper, the report was marked: for Australian eyes only. It states that Iran is behind Iraq in developing an atom bomb and adds that nuclear development plans in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Syria are small scale and operate at a very low level of urgency.

Air Force Commander on Iraqi Threat, Readiness

TA3108193890 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1815 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Interview with Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, commander of the Air Force, by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky at an unidentified Air Force base, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bin-Nun] The Air Force is on high alert to respond to all threats and even concealed threats to Israel. It observes this level of readiness every day, all year long, and especially nowadays.

Regarding the Air Force's readiness, it is ready and continues to prepare itself constantly for a possible reaction to any threat Saddam Husayn might dare to make, as well as for the appropriate response to tougher challenges.

[Shlonsky] What threats does the Iraqi Air Force present, to the best of our knowledge, both in terms of Saddam Husayn's declarations and in terms of the capability of the Iraqi Air Force's missiles and aircraft?

[Bin-Nun] The Iraqi Air Force is the largest air force in the Middle East, both quantitatively and qualitatively. It has advanced Western aircraft—French-made planes and Soviet-made MiG-29's, for example. It is larger than the German, British, or French Air Force, for example. It has accumulated flight hours and experience during the eight-year-long war against Iran and has proven its ability to attack over distances double our distance from Baghdad. That is not to say that it will reach Israel, although it may try that.

[Shlonsky] Do you believe that a violent clash in the Gulf between the United States and Iraq would help Israel, in terms of future developments?

[Bin-Nun] No violent clash has ever proven good to anyone, but in this specific case there appears to be no alternative to hitting the Iraqi tyrant in such a way as to leave the region tranquil for a long period of time. Any other operation, be it negotiations or any other form of concession or compromise that will not ultimately lead to his removal from the stage, will turn out to be bad for us, the region, and the entire Arab world.

[Before the interview, the station carried a general report on an F-15 squadron, in which Shlonsky said that in response to the Iraqi Air Force commander's threat, "Bin-Nun warned the Iraqis by saying that we have answers to chemical weapons, as well as all the other threats."]

Levi Comments on Upcoming Visit to U.S.

TA0309122090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi met with journalists at noon today at the end of his audience with the visiting Argentine foreign minister. He told them that during his visit in the United States he and Secretary of State Baker will reach agreements on many topics, despite the low profile Israel has been maintaining on the Gulf crisis. Arye Golan reports:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Foreign Minister David Levi conferred with his Argentine counterpart for over two hours, but upon emerging from the meeting most of the questions referred to his upcoming meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington on Wednesday.

Is the political process doomed to go into a deep freeze due to the Gulf crisis, the foreign minister was asked.

[Levi] Not at all. I think that the sport currently in vogue in Israel is to wonder whether I am departing on an unnecessary journey, whether this is the right time to discuss matters that are passed, or what I will be bringing to Baker. I have refrained from commenting on all these issues. I am going to the United States at the invitation of Mr. Baker, who has reiterated the importance of this meeting. There will be many issues we will discuss, and on which we will reach agreements. At Baker's suggestion, we will discuss everything happening in the Persian Gulf. Although we have been maintaining a low profile, one must not forget that we do not live in some faraway continent but right here and that everything that happens in the Gulf will have an impact on us in one way or another. Silence, when necessary, does not mean that the other side has disappeared or is ignoring the situation. We will discuss and reach agreements on all these matters in a good spirit, I hope.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, are you taking some sort of message on the Palestinian issue to the U.S. secretary of state? Do you plan to deal intensively on this issue or will the problems in the Persian Gulf divert attention from the need for discussing the promotion of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue?

[Levi] We will discuss everything—first and foremost, the new situation and the dangers looming on the way to a future solution. We will talk about the situation that will emerge now that conditions are changing.

As for the political issue, Israel yearns for peace and will not sit still until it attains this objective, which is its most heartfelt desire. Peace is not confined to the Palestinian issue, which we must solve, and is not exclusively our problem. It is also the problem of the region and of the Arab countries. It is inconceivable that while these things are happening—and the menace posed by Iraq, by its threatening army, has now become clear—we should say that this is not the right time to discuss peace with the Arab countries. We will insist on this point. We have our own proposals. Of course, cooperation and coordination will be required and I am ready and prepared for this formidable mission. Let those who wonder whether this is the right time think whatever they want; we must not waste time. [end recording]

Levi Meets Argentine Foreign Minister Cavallo

TA0309123590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi this morning received the visiting Argentine foreign minister, Dr. Domingo Felipe Cavallo. Levi praised Argentina's President Carlos Menem for halting the Condor project through which Iraq hoped to obtain a ballistic nuclear missile. Jack Katzenell reports:

The Argentine foreign minister arrived last night for a four-day visit, in which he will meet Prime Minister Shamir and President Herzog, as well as Foreign Minister Levi. At this morning's meeting two cooperation agreements were signed. The visit has a pronounced economic flavor since Foreign Minister Cavallo is also meeting Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and the Governor of the Bank of Israel, Professor Mikha'el Bruno. Foreign Minister Levi praised his Argentine guest for going ahead with the visit in spite of the Gulf crisis. Dr. Cavello replied that this reflects the importance which Argentina attaches to its relations with Israel. Foreign Minister Levi also praised Argentine President Carlos Menem for putting a stop to the Condor project, through which Iraq hoped to acquire a ballistic nuclear missile in cooperation with Argentina and Egypt. Levi voiced appreciation for Menem's firm stand against all manifestations of anti-Semitism in Argentina. Since Menem is of Syrian origin his attitude to these issues is particularly appreciated in Israel. President Menem is to visit Israel next year. He was invited by Hayim Herzog during the Israeli president's recent tour of South America.

Cavallo Discusses Arms Sales

TA0309140590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Argentina's foreign minister said today that most South America countries—and his country in particular—have avoided, and will continue to avoid, supplying other countries with sophisticated weapons or assisting them to produce such weapons. Visiting Minister Domingo Felipe Cavallo made these remarks in his meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi.

Mr. Levi noted that joint teams will be set up to deal with bilateral issues. Our political correspondent Arye Golan notes that the foreign minister was invited to visit Argentina.

Shamir Says No PLO Partner in Negotiations

TA0409104190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister said that the position taken by the PLO on the Persian Gulf crisis has proven that it

cannot be a negotiating partner. We all agree that we have to negotiate with the Palestinians, Mr. Shamir pointed out, and I hope that in a joint effort and with U.S. assistance, Palestinians are found who are prepared to negotiate in the spirit of the Camp David accords and the government initiative of May 1989.

Referring to Israel's involvement in the Persian Gulf crisis, the prime minister said that the Iraqis are trying to present the confrontation as one between Israel and the Arabs. It is the interest of the United States, the free world, and Israel not to involve Israel in the conflict at this stage. That is why we are maintaining a low profile. Israel is not planning to advise the United States on how to behave in the conflict, and up to now, the prime minister said, President Bush has been leading the operation in the best possible way.

The Prime Minister's Office responded to the Soviet proposal to convene an international conference with the participation of Israel on the Gulf crisis. Yosi Ahime'ir, the head of the prime minister's bureau, said Israel does not reject the idea out of hand. After Jerusalem receives the full text it will study it thoroughly, he said.

Arens Allows Reopening of Bethlehem University

TA3108122590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] The defense minister today gave his permission to reopen Bethlehem University and to proceed with the preparations for the opening of the new school year. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Mr. Arens reiterated that he intends to ease the living conditions of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and to restore the school system in these areas to their normal activities. The defense minister has so far approved the reopening of the nursing schools in the campuses of Abu-Dis and al-Birah and of all 16 colleges in the territories.

Mr. Arens reiterated to the director of Bethlehem University that it is their responsibility to see to it that the reopening of the university is not used to stir incitement and violence. He expressed the deep disappointment felt by Israelis at the wide support Saddam Husayn enjoys in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Schools To Reopen Mid-Week

TA0209115290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Schools in the administered territories will be opened mid-week. Initially elementary schools will resume functioning, and if all goes well they will be followed by middle schools, and in about two weeks' time by high schools.

The Israeli human rights group Betzelem today appealed to Defense Minister Moshe Arens to speed up the start of the school year in the territories. Betzelem says, according to Israeli law, the educational system in the territories must also be allowed to function normally.

Arabs 'Proud' of Saddam for Facing West Alone

TA0309055190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Two studies reveal the depth of support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn among Israeli Arabs. The reports, completed by the Arab Studies Institute in Giv'at Haviva, say many Arabs feel proud of Saddam's invasion of Kuwait. The Arabs are reported to be proud that Saddam is facing the West without help from others. The studies said that at first Israeli Arab leaders condemned the Iraqi invasion, but the Arab dignitaries soon backtracked when they saw the tremendous grass-roots support for Saddam as well as the PLO praise reserved for the Iraqi president.

Intelligence Role in Decision Making Analyzed

TA3108122090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 90 p B2

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch [IB]—like every other intelligence service—is occasionally taken by surprise, thus failing to alert the authorities to the enemy's intentions. This does not mean that the IB does not do its job properly, or that it is not a superb intelligence service. Those who are acquainted with its activities and output say that despite occasional slips, Israel has an excellent military intelligence.

Nevertheless, the structure of the Israeli intelligence community and the total reliance of the decisionmakers on the data they receive from the IB in its role as the "national assessor," along with the gradual loss of trust in the IB's operational capability on the part of the political echelons—all these reflect an essential deficiency in the policymaking process in the sphere of national security. This deficiency requires a reassessment of the place of the intelligence service in the Israeli security concept from the point of view of the policymakers' approach to the reliability of the intelligence service and the relationship between the intelligence service and the Israeli political echelons.

The IDF's military doctrine is based on maintaining a relatively small standing army nucleus which is in charge of current security and of thwarting the enemy's attack plans in the initial stages. The standing army's combat force is expected to stop the enemy until the reserve troops are called up.

Because of the permanent limitation preventing the continuous deployment of large forces along the border lines, the doctrine relies on the basic assumption that the intelligence is capable of sounding an advance warning regarding the enemy's design to launch a comprehensive attack.

Naturally, the warning must be issued as early as possible, but the traditional Israeli military thinking has it that the intelligence will have done its job by sounding an alert at least 48 hours before the enemy strikes. This

period is supposed to enable the Army to launch its reserves' call-up system and is believed to be sufficient to allow a considerable part of the reservists to arrive in their set-up locations in the front area.

With the IDF's operational plans being based on the receipt of a timely warning, the IB's role becomes crucial. Therefore, a failure to supply an early warning by the intelligence is liable to claim a high price, which indeed happened in October 1973.

In recent years, the IB has come under severe criticism—particularly from the political echelons—as a result of its recurring failure to provide a warning on the Arab countries' military activities. Among other events, the critics mentioned the absence of early intelligence data on the Chinese-Saudi missile deal; the negotiations between Syria and the PRC on the purchase of surface-to-surface missiles; the huge arms deal signed between the UK and Saudi Arabia; the entry of a considerable number of Syrian troops into Beirut about two years ago; the conclusion of the Iran-Iraq war; and, recently, the Iraqi incursion into Kuwait.

These, as well as earlier failures of intelligence—disregarding the question of whether pointing an accusing finger at the IB is justifiable at all—have created dynamics in which the political echelons' faith in the IB's ability and reliability are being shaken. The most prominent senior policymaker, who has frequently expressed his apprehensions regarding the output of Israeli intelligence, is Yitzhaq Rabin, who was defense minister for about five years. [passage omitted]

The intelligence network's total failure to forewarn about the full war Egypt and Syria initiated in October 1973 caused a particularly harsh reaction in the political echelons. The decisionmakers began to treat the intelligence service with mistrust. This attitude affected the entire concept of defense, which was revised, at least in the initial period following the Yom Kippur War: It was no longer based on a total reliance on the IB's ability to provide timely warning.

As far as the policymakers were concerned, an intelligence fiasco became a reasonable possibility after October 1973. One of the solutions they adopted to ensure a successful defense policy, in the event of another intelligence fiasco (the solution had the support of senior IDF figures), was a massive increase in the IDF's order of battle. They hoped this would compensate for a possible intelligence failure.

As time went on, however, and the October 1973 trauma wore off, and as the high cost of maintaining large numbers of troops along the front lines become oppressive for the IDF and the national economy, the policymakers reverted to the traditional policy of relying on the IB's promise to provide an alert at least 48 hours before the enemy begins hostilities.

It was basically realized that the IDF cannot afford to adopt the recommendations of the Agranat Commission [appointed after the Yom Kippur War to report on the government and Army preparedness for the war], which determined that it has "to deploy its troops in accordance with the enemy's technical capability at any given moment." The adoption of this recommendation would have required the permanent and continued recruitment of numerous reserve divisions, which would have dealt a fatal blow to the civilian economy and badly disrupted Israeli society.

Thus, after a brief period of trauma due to October 1973, the IB again became one of the most important basic components of the national security policymaking. At the same time, the policymakers began losing trust in it.

In view of the policymakers' awareness of the IB's limitations and inability to carry out its fundamental tasks satisfactorily, particularly when those tasks are part of a defense minister's personal conception, the political echelons should opt for one of the following possible courses of action: changing or updating the concept of defense in a way that would compensate for the erosion in the IB's standing in the policymakers' esteem, or changing the intelligence system to improve its output.

The political echelons, however, have taken neither course of action. In fact, the policymakers have totally ignored the first option, while the changes in the intelligence system designed to improve its output were made at the initiative of the Army itself, without any intervention by the political echelons.

The problem becomes even more acute when the IB's role and decisive influence on decisionmaking regarding national security are considered. The IB is the only source supplying the political echelons with an evaluation of integrated intelligence, and that evaluation serves policymakers as an all-important basis for decisionmaking.

Because the IB is "the national assessor," it has a very special responsibility, in that it is the sole official intelligence source supplying information to the cabinet ministers and the decisionmakers in smaller forums of senior political figures. [passage omitted]

'Aziz, Perez de Cuellar Continue Talks in Amman

Crown Prince Meets 'Aziz

JN3108145190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the Regent, his majesty the king's deputy, received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the Royal Hashemite court at noon today. Mr. 'Aziz is visiting Jordan to meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

His highness his majesty the king's deputy wished Mr. 'Aziz success in the political efforts to avert the dangers of war and destruction and to establish the aspired for, just peace that will help development and progress in the region.

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations; and Dr. Riyadh al- Qaysi, head of the International Organizations Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry; and Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the Regent last night received UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and wished him success in his mission.

Hold Second Round

JN3108194790 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1907 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz ended a second session of talks in Amman this evening. Political aides to Mr. de Cuellar and a number of Iraqi officials attended the talks.

After the talks, Mr. 'Aziz and Mr. de Cuellar made the following statements to reporters:

[Begin recording] ['Aziz] The secretary general and myself spent a long time exchanging views in a constructive manner about the situation. I made it clear to his excellency the secretary general that Iraq is always for a peaceful solution to the present situation. Iraq will never initiate a military conflict in the region. The situation in the region has been described as explosive. This definition of the situation is the result of the American and Western or Atlantic deployment of forces in the region. It is not the responsibility of Iraq. Anyway, as my president made it very clear and my government made it very clear on a number of occasions, Iraq doesn't have any intention to ignite the explosive situation. In seeking means and ways to a peaceful solution, we strongly believe that as far as the situation in the Gulf is concerned, this situation has to be handled within the Arab framework or as we call it the Arab solution. We strongly believe in this Arab solution, and we believe that there must be an Arab solution to this situation. As far as the other issues in the region are concerned, the Palestinian issue, the situation in Lebanon, and other issues which have been not resolved for decades, those issues could be—and in our opinion should be—discussed on common principles, common standards, as my president suggested on the 12 of August. If the Security Council wants to preserve peace and justice and security in this region, we would like that all these issues be discussed, put on the table, discussed, and attempts to resolve them should be based on common principles and common standards. Iraq as a nation strongly believes in justice. Iraq as a nation feels that it could be protected, and the interests of the Arab world could be protected by resorting to peaceful means and resorting to the means of international law. But in this respect, there should be no double standards: a certain standard in which we are treated and another standard in which others are treated. We feel great and strong bitterness about the double treatment which has been used against us. There are people who are suffering in the West Bank, in Gaza, there are people who are suffering in Lebanon, and those sufferings have to be taken into consideration. Concentration on one issue only does not resolve the problems of this region; does not bring this region to peace, stability, and justice. I highly appreciate the efforts of the secretary general of the United Nations to seek ways and means to get out of the present situation. Anyhow, my feeling is that our talks were very useful. And I told him that I will always be at his disposal for further contacts. We will resume our meetings tomorrow morning, God willing.

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, the distinguished minister has already told you part of what we have discussed together, and he has explained to me with detail the position of his country and there was a continuation of our long discussion this morning in which we met as you know, together, the two of us alone. We discussed the different aspects of the problem. This afternoon, the minister and myself have presented our respective views on the situation. Of course, as it is my duty and my conviction, I was very much interested in the implementations of the Resolutions 660, 662, and 664. And then I explained to the distinguished minister what my position was on those three United Nations Security Council resolutions.

I have heard from the minister what he has explained to you about the humanitarian aspect of the problem. I must say that I consider it as an important step forward. Of course from my point of view it is not enough but anyway I welcome this first decision of the Iraqi Government, which I hope will be followed by other decisions which will allow all foreigners to leave the area, and that I think we will have very much help to lessen the tension in the area.

The distinguished foreign minister has referred to the Gulf situation and on that we both agreed, that the situation is dangerous and that every effort has to be done in order to find a solution. But obviously a solution of such a delicate problem cannot be found in just four hours, or five hours, or six hours of discussion.

Tomorrow, we are going to have first a meeting of experts—the foreign minister's experts and my own

experts—in order to exchange some ideas, and later we are going to meet—the distinguished minister and myself together—in order to continue our efforts.

I am grateful to the distinguished minister for his disponibility [as heard; from the Spanish "disponibilidad"—making himself available] to listen to me and exchange views with me. [end recording]

Press Conference 31 Aug

JN3108210790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2025 GMT 31 Aug 90

['Highlights' of press statement by Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, following the conclusion of two rounds of talks in Amman on 31 Aug—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Begin recording in English] ['Aziz] [passage omitted] At any time in the near future, I will be at his [Perez de Cuellar's] disposal to consider the continuation of our joint efforts. Concerning the humanitarian aspect which his excellency was interested in, my president made an important gesture lately when he decided that all women and children of all nationalities who were not free to move in the last period are free to move now. They can move to their countries. They can return to Iraq freely, and they can stay if they choose. So, all women and children are free to move now. The restrictions are limited to certain countries, and those countries are the participants in the military deployment against Iraq. I asked my friend his excellency the secretary general to seek guarantees that those countries who have deployed their forces around Iraq and threatened to attack Iraq—if he could seek guarantees from them not to initiate war against my country—if such guarantees are provided, then the situation of the civilians, the foreigners would be resolved. This is the position of my government.

We will always be open to listening to ideas and suggestions, and will reciprocate in a constructive manner to the constructive opinions and ideas which we receive from his excellency the secretary general of the United Nations, and from others who are showing or have shown interest in the situation. I briefed his excellency about the initiatives of a number of leaders; mainly His Majesty King Husayn, who has been talking to a number of Arab states. Now he is in Europe discussing the situation with European leaders. We highly estimate the efforts of his majesty, and those efforts will be an important component in what we anticipate and call the Arab solution. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Hold Third Round

JN0109172290 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1705 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] At Raghadan Palace, a third round of talks began at 1830 [1530 GMT] today between UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. More in the following report with Hani al-Badri:

[Al-Badri] A short while ago the third working session got under way between Messrs. Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Characterized as one of the most important in the efforts to defuse the Gulf confrontation, the meeting is being watched with interest by world media correspondents. It was announced here at Raghadan Palace that the UN chief will call a news conference tomorrow morning to spell out the outcome of his talks with Mr. 'Aziz.

'Aziz on Foreigners' Release

NC3108210590 Paris AFP in English 2055 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Amman, Aug 31 (AFP)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said here Friday that foreigners would be allowed to leave Iraq if U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar could guarantee that Iraq would not be attacked.

Speaking at a press conference following two meetings with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, he said he had asked the U.N. Secretary-General "to seek guarantees" that countries with troops in the Gulf would not start a war with Iraq. "If such guarantees are obtained, the situation of foreign nationals in Iraq will be resolved," he said.

Mr. 'Aziz repeated previous assurances from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn that women and children being held in Iraq were free to leave.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar spoke at the press conference of a "step forward" in the "humanitarian aspects" of the hostage situation. He added that the release of all foreigners held in Iraq would help to ease tensions, but would not eleborate.

Sources close to the U.N. and Iraqi delegations said the two sides would hold a last session of talks Saturday, after which they were expected to hold separate press conferences. [passage omitted]

The Moslem Brothers, an Islamic fundamentalist group whose members make up a quarter of Jordan's 80-seat parliament, organized a rally Friday in central Amman to condemn "American-Zionist aggression against the Arab world." Thousands of people took part in the demonstration, during which speakers called for Moslems to "confront the growing menace."

Issues Statement 1 Sep

JN0109184690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1807 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Statement by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, following talks with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Amman on 1 September; in English with consecutive Arabic translation, transcribed from the English—recorded]

[Text] I would like to say that as far as I see it, the talks with his excellency my friend, the secretary general of the

United Nations, have been very useful. We exchanged views about the current situation. I listened to him very carefully and I tried to brief him about our position vis-a-vis the situation and the ways and means to reach the common goal which we share with the secretary general; that is peace, stability, and justice in this region.

This situation is a complicated and dramatic situation. And from my humble personal experience, such a situation could not be resolved by dramatic diplomacy. It needs quiet diplomacy, it needs patience, it needs some time, that people understand exactly the positions of others. They give enough time for sincere and constructive exchange of views. And when that is provided, the people might find better solutions to the problems they are facing. We in Iraq share the views of a great number of Arab leaders and a great number of Arab people that this is an Arab problem. And it must be resolved by Arab means.

That's to say the solution ought to be, first, an Arab solution, and those responsible, honest Arab leaders tried to do their best, and some of them are doing their best and trying to reach the Arab solution, which is the solution to the problem. There is no other solution. This doesn't mean that the international community is not involved or not interested. It does not mean that the secretary general of the United Nations has no role. On the contrary, I informed him that the first mission of the secretary general of the United Nations is the mission of the peacemaker. And we are in the business of making peace. Therefore, he must be with us at all times, with his wisdom, with his attention, with his help, and with his encouragement. So our friend Mr. Perez de Cuellar is always welcomed and always needed by those Arab leaders who are trying to do their best to reach a solution. And the position of my government is supportive and sympathetic with the role of the secretary general of the United Nations.

There is a fact to be taken into consideration, that when we speak about the Security Council of the United Nations, it is an international body, but it is formed of governments. There are governments inside the Security Council, and those governments are not neutral. Some of these governments have their own policies and their own interests. Some of these policies are good, some of them are bad, and we know that the governments of the permanent members in the Security Council, I mean the governments who have a permanent seat in the Security Council, have not been the good friends of this region. We know that they have supported aggression and they have covered aggression, and when we speak about the unanimity of the international community, we have a recent example when 14 of the members of the Security Council voted for the formation of a committee to go to the occupied territories, one member of the Council undermined that effort—that is the United States, because the United States has the power of veto. If the Arabs—just imagine if the Arabs have the power of veto—if the Arab members of the Security Council had the power of the veto in the Security Council, the last five resolutions would not have been adopted. So, when we speak about a crisis, we have to be just and fair, and we have to take basic facts into consideration, that the members of the Security Council are not always right.

They might make mistakes out of selfish interests. They might make mistakes out of misinformation and in this particular situation we were not listened to. We were not given enough time to go and present our case. The information, the facts we have about the history of the crisis were not put on the table of the Security Council because they made hasty decisions in a very short period.

Anyway, the international community is—and we are part of the international community, Iraq and the Arab world—we are dedicated to the cause of peace. We would like peace and justice to prevail in this region and we find great interest for the people of Iraq and for the whole Arab nation in the preservance of peace, stability, and justice in this region; but justice has to be implemented and peace has to be preserved, security has to be preserved in the whole region as well as the whole world. We have suffered and we have criticized the selective approach for a number of governments who have permanent seats in the Security Council. They select an international crisis, they emphasize it, and they tell the world that this is the most important thing, while they ignore another one with all the suffering it brings to people, with all the dangers it brings to security to peace in this or that region. And they do that out of their selfish policies and selfish interests, not out of their conscience or out of the norms of international law or out of norms of justice and humanitarian approaches towards matters.

This is how we see it. This is the spirit we would like it to prevail in dealing with all the issues and all the problems we are facing in this region. The plight of the Palestinians—this plight has been dragging on for decades, the plight of the Lebanese people, our brothers who have been suffering for more than 15 years, and the situation in the Gulf. This is our position. We are open-minded. Our hearts are open also. We find a great interest, in the present and the future, in having normal, just relations with the outside world. We have a great interest in the strong position of the United Nations as an international body, and as I told my friend, the secretary general of the United Nations, I am always at his disposal, and we would like to continue our contacts in the future in order to seek and to explore the ways and means to bring about this justice and stability in the region as a whole.

Leaves for Baghdad

JN0109191990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Following the conclusion of his talks with the UN secretary general in Amman this evening, Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the talks had been very useful and dealt with various views regarding the current situation.

Mr. 'Aziz said that the solution to the crisis must be achieved through Arab means.

Mr. 'Aziz left Amman this evening for Baghdad.

Perez de Cuellar 'Disappointed'

JN0209092490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar today said: As I leave Amman, I must admit that I am relatively disappointed, because I had hoped to realize more from my talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

'Aziz yesterday affirmed that his talks with Perez de Cuellar were useful but that such a situation requires quiet diplomacy and much patience. He expressed willingness to meet the secretary general again with the aim of realizing peace.

Meanwhile, the secretary general said he would be leaving Amman for Paris immediately to meet with Jordan's King Husayn.

[In its 0800 GMT news summary, Amman Domestic Service in Arabic reported that the UN secretary general's news conference ended "a short while ago," without elaborating further. The Amman Domestic Service 0900 GMT news summary made no mention whatsoever of the news conference]

Says 'Real Progress' in Talks

JN0209101990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1002 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar has said that he will brief the UN Security Council on the outcome of his talks in Amman with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar added that there was real progress during the talks. In a press conference he held in Amman today, the UN secretary general added that during the meeting he reviewed with Mr. 'Aziz all avenues of arriving at a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, indicating that he took note of Iraq's stands on the various aspects of the crisis, especially the Iraqi assertion regarding the need for an Arab solution to the crisis.

The UN secretary general expressed hope that the efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the crisis would continue in view of the gravity of the situation.

'Text' of 2 Sep Statement

JN0209123790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1106 GMT 2 Sep 90

["Full text and translation" of statement by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on outcome of his meetings with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz at news conference at Basman Palace in Amman on 2 September; Perez de Cuellar speaks in English with superimposed Arabic translation—recorded]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, I arrived in Amman on the evening of 30 August. I am now about to travel to Paris, where I will inaugurate along with the French president a UN-sponsored conference, and also where I hope to meet with His Majesty King Husayn. I would like to thank his majesty the king and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan for the hospitality and kindness with which we have been met during our stay in Jordan.

Over the past two days, I held several hours of talks with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. I had invited him for an urgent meeting with me so that we could have an exchange of views on the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. I took this step because I had grave concern over the escalation of tension in the region, and also because there is a need to avoid further deterioration in the situation.

During our meetings, I informed the Iraqi minister of the dangers seen by the UN Security Council because of the crisis, as was made clear through the five resolutions the Council passed under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. In this context, I informed the minister that the United Nations as a whole was committed to the approach adopted by the UN Security Council. I also said that my personal initiative must be viewed within the framework of the resolutions passed by the major body of the United Nations; namely, the UN Security Council, which is responsible for the maintenance of world security and peace. Despite the difficulties I saw before I came to Amman, I made this move because I had faith and felt dutybound to explore all means to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis. Over the past two days, I listened to and considered the political and human concern harbord by Iraq, which was communicated to me by the minister. I will communicate this concern to the UN Security Council when I return to New York.

On the political side, the minister asserted, as he said publicly, that his government will not initiate a military escalation of the situation. As for humanitarian matters, the minister affirmed the need to secure food supplies to Iraqis. During the exchange of views on humanitarian issues, I welcomed the Iraqi Government's decision to allow women and children of other nations to leave Iraq if they so wish.

I emphasized, however, that this decision must be followed by another decision—specifically, to lift all restrictions on the movement of foreign nationals. During our talks, I proposed that we deal with all aspects of the problem. The minister, on his part, stressed the need for an Arab solution. He, therefore, was conveying to me his government's viewpoint. I told him that I share his government's opinion that the solution to the problem requires a major Arab role. Still, the international dimension to this conflict must be recognized.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar says: In view of the global interests and the military deployment in the region and the presence of foreign nationals in Iraq, we make it clear that the United Nations, as well as the Arab governments, must take part in resolving those numerous complicated problems.

Perez de Cuellar says: As I leave Amman, I must admit a certain degree of disappointment, because I hoped for so much during my talks with Mr. 'Aziz. In view of the important role of the UN Security Council, I will inform its members of the result of the talks when I return back to New York. I would have liked to tell the Security Council that there was real progress during the discussions here in Amman. However, I honestly cannot do that now and I cannot predict any reactions from the Council. In the interest of all those concerned, however, I hope that all efforts will continue to explore means to achieve progress in the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis in view of the serious situation. Therefore, we all need to work swiftly in a spirit of determination.

In order to assist Jordan on the many thousands of persons who are leaving Kuwait and Amman, I have asked the United Nations disaster relief coordinator, Mr. Essaafi, who is with me here, to make an assessment of their needs. He has been today with me and he will give every possible assistance to the government of Jordan, and he will be today in touch with his highness the crown prince and all the authorities which are dealing with this very very serious problem which Jordan is confronting now.

News Conference 2 Sep

JN0209180590 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1712 GMT 2 Sep 90

["Proceedings" of news conference held by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Amman on 2 September; in English with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] You say you leave here disappointed. When you came you said you hoped to find a way to proceed. Where do we go now?

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, as far as I am concerned, as I have explained to you in a rather didactic manner, I have made points which are not only the position of the Security Council but as well my personal position. For me, if we want to start solving this problem, we have to go to the roots of the problem; that is the invasion and annexation of Kuwait. Now there is some hope for the meeting which will take place between President Bush and President Gorbachev. One of the subjects they will certainly discuss will be the Middle East situation, and let us hope that their meeting will lead to a solution of the present crisis.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary General, why the United Nations does not respond to the initiative of President Saddam Husayn to solve both the Palestinian and the Kuwaiti problems at the same time, although there are resolutions from the United Nations?

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, that is... [changes thought]. You have to address the countries which should implement the resolutions. And I totally agree, as I have said before, that all resolutions of the Security Council should be implemented by the countries concerned. And as for the questions you are referring to, I totally agree with you. This question should be as well dealt with and the resolution should be fully implemented.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary General, you said that the presence of the marooned, or stranded people in the desert at al-Ruwayshid is a problem for Jordan. Do you think that the presence of more than 50,000 human beings who are citizens of member states of the United Nations is actually an international problem that must be addressed urgently by the international organizations now?

[Perez de Cuellar] You know I have just said that this gentleman is here, exactly in order to take care of this problem in good coordination with the Jordanian Government. And, he arrived yesterday. And he is here now. And, perhaps if you want he can say a word. Yes, please say something.

[Mohamed Essaafi, director general of UN Disaster Relief Office, UNDRO] I must say that of behalf of the secretary general, an international appeal has been launched in order to come to the rescue of all those displaced and who are arriving from Kuwait and Iraq. And, there is a comprehensive program which is being implemented now by all the United Nations agencies concerned, and—which is being coordinated by UNDRO.

[Reporter] Do you believe such—do you believe in President Bush (?prediction) that there will not be a diplomatic solution?

[Perez de Cuellar] I don't think that President Bush has said that there was not—that he does not....[indistinct interruption by reporter] No, I don't know what he has said. But, I do not remember having heard that. But, you know the situation is very, very serious of course. But it is not because of, I, now I am disappointed, that I will end up my efforts. And because you have heard yesterday the foreign minister of Iraq saying that he is at my disposal. And I would like to say to him—to repeat to you what I have told him—I am as well at his disposal. I am prepared to continue my efforts together with him in order to obtain a just and lasting solution of the problem.

[Reporter] Did you see the initiative yesterday of Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on this disengagement of troops in the [word indistinct].

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, it is an interesting idea which has to be considered by the parties concerned. Any idea which (?well-inspired) deserves consideration.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary General, did the foreign minister express any conditions, any circumstances whatsoever in which Iraq might contemplate a withdrawal from Kuwait, or was he totally categoric in his refusal?

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, the minister, as you know, you remember very well that when he was asked by you—or some of you—he said: No comments. And, I must say, as far as I am concerned, I haven't heard any indication of what is the final decision of the Iraqi Government on the question of their presence in Kuwait. Of course, there is, it comes to my mind that President Saddam Husayn, in

a letter addressed the 19 August, 19 August, he said that the question of Kuwait will be a matter for the Arabs to deal with.That is something which gives me some hope that perhaps the Iraqi Government is prepared to consider, or to reconsider, its position as far as their presence in Kuwait is concerned.

[Reporter] But if you hear the Arab world—this is the heart of the problem. If this Palestinian question is not solved within the framework of a total solution, then I—we—nobody ever sees how this problem going to be solved. What is your opinion?

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, I agree with you on what you say. I have, you know that I am one of the, of the—if I can use the [word indistinct]—the champions of a solution, a quick solution of the Middle East problem, which I would say, let me make a difference, the Near East. Now, we are dealing with the Middle East, and [word indistinct] refer to the Near East, I am referring to Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, of course. This problem needs to be solved. And, on that I entirely agree with you, no? I hope that what is happening now will open the eyes of those who are against attacking frontally this problem of Palestine.

[Reporter] If your talks were made directly with President Saddam, do you think the results of the meeting would be more positive, or different than....[pauses]

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, I think that Foreign Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, who is a vice prime minister, reflects the views of his president. And, I am persuaded that he has the full confidence of President Saddam Husayn. And everything which he told me reflected the views of his president. And, then, direct contact between me and the president of Iraq was never under consideration. Thank you.

Confers With Prince

JN0209163790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning. Perez de Cuellar ended a visit to Jordan today. They reviewed current political efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis. Prince Hasan and the secretary general also reviewed developments surrounding Jordan's request for consideration of solutions to the economic problems it will face as a result of the application of Security Council Resolution No. 661. Jordan presented the request in accordance with Article 50 of the UN Charter.

The UN secretary general thanked his highness for the warm welcome he and the delegation accompanying him were accorded during their visit to Jordan to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. The meeting was attended by the UN secretary general's assistants and the director general of the United Nations Disaster Relief Office [UNDRO].

His royal highness also received UNDRO Director General Mohamed Essaafi today. They reviewed international efforts to provide relief services to arrivals into Jordan from Iraq. His highness stressed the importance of solving the problems of the arrivals before they aggravate as a result of the huge numbers of comers and the continued entry of thousands of people into Jordan daily. The regent also stressed that international organizations and the countries of the arrivals needed to help secure basic facilities for them and to expedite their departure.

12 Japanese Women, Children Arrive in Amman

JN0209124690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1127 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] In Tokyo it has been announced that 12 Japanese women and children have arrived in Amman from Baghdad. This is the second group of Japanese to leave within the past 12 hours.

Officials at the Japanese Embassy in Amman have said that four children and eight women arrived on board an Iraqi airplane and that they will spend the night in Amman and leave for home tomorrow.

More Western Women, Children Arrive

JN0209162490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] A dozen Western women and children arrived in Amman from Baghdad today as the airlift of dependents of foreigners out of Iraq and Kuwait continued. One of the Americans said she was travelling with her mother and 13-year-old sister. She said she and her sister had no trouble getting Iraqi exist visas.

Port Sources Say Al-'Aqabah Activity 'Paralyzed'

NC0309151490 Paris AFP in English 1419 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, Sep 3 (AFP)—The Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah on the Red Sea, Iraq's principal maritime outlet, is currently paralyzed as a United Nations Security Council trade embargo on Baghdad begins to take hold, port sources said Monday.

"Not a single ship docked today at the port, which used to receive an average of 20 ships a day," before the August 2 Iraqi invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait, one source told AFP.

Some 3,000 Egyptians working on the docks now face the loss of their jobs as business slumps.

"Many Egyptians have already quit and left for home and I expect the rest of them to leave by mid-September," Mr. Sbu'i said.

Jordan also stands to lose one billion dollars a year in the transport sector, where some 50,000 people are employed, industry sources said.

Layoffs in the sector are bound to exacerbate the national unemployment rate, which currently stands at 18 per cent.

"We either play cards, backgammon or go to the beach as tourists do while waiting for a shipment for Amman," said one of the estimated 6,000 drivers in al-'Aqabah who have been idle for weeks.

Mr. Sbu'i stressed that "only 10 to 15 trucks leave for Amman each day."

He noted that Jordanian imports have slumped, as much of the industrial raw material purchased abroad had been geared toward production for the Iraqi market.

While trade has dried up at al-'Aqabah, the passenger quay has witnessed unprecedented activity, as thousands of Egyptian and Sudanese nationals who have fled Iraq and Kuwait use al-'Aqabah as a transit point on their journey home.

Mr. Sbu'i said three ferries left al-'Aqabah Monday heading to Nuwaybi' in Egypt, carrying 3,000 passengers.

Iran Government Sources on Release of Hostages

NC0209111890 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1055 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] REUTER has cited sources close to the Iranian Government as saying that the 13 Western hostages held in Lebanon will be released within the coming weeks, and that a British hostage is expected to be released later this month. The sources denied that these hostages have lost their value as bargaining chips, adding that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and Iran's condemnation of this invasion could provide Iran with an historic opportunity to reorganize its relations with the West.

The sources noted that closing the file on the hostages is necessary for normalizing relations with the West, hinting that the release of British hostage Brian Keenan last month expressed an Iranian readiness to overlook the issue of Salman Rushdie.

Negotiations Under Way for Hostage Release

NC0309143890 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Beirut, Sept 3 (AFP)—Negotiations are under way to release one of the three British hostages in Lebanon, possibly Church of England envoy Terry Waite, a Lebanese source close to Iran said here Monday [3 September].

"Negotiations and preparations are taking place, with Terry Waite's release as the priority," the source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, declining to be named.

Mr. Waite, 51, a special envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury, was kidnapped in January 1987 while on a mission to secure the release of other hostages. His abduction in mainly Moslem west Beirut was never claimed.

The Iranian Government has charged "an Arab political personality to play the role in Lebanon of mediator in this affair," the source added, without identifying him. "The release of Terry Waite, who is considered a hostage of primary importance, depends on progress being made in the normalization process between Iran and Great Britain," he said. "If this process drags, the released hostage will be John McCarthy," a 33-year-old TV cameraman who was kidnapped here in April 1986.

The third British hostage, retired airline pilot Jack Mann, 75, went missing in May 1989. Six Americans, two West Germans and an Italian are also believed to be in the hands of pro-Iranian groups.

The Lebanese source said it was unlikely that the 12 Western hostages, notably those from the United States, would be released shortly. The situation of the six Americans was further complicated by the massive U.S. military deployment in the Gulf.

Husayn al-Musawi, a pro-Iranian Shiite fundamentalist leader, also told AFP that he expected European hostages to be freed before the Americans "because the United States is leading the conspiracy to invade our region."

In London, the Foreign Office said Sunday [2 September] that it had "nothing to back up" reports from Beirut that the remaining hostages in Lebanon could be freed soon. The brother of Terry Waite urged the British government to send a representative to Iran for direct talks aimed at obtaining the release of British hostages.

"The diplomatic problems between Britain and Iran are all but over, and now is the time for vigorous action to pursue every possible measure other than paying ransom," the Times newspaper quoted David Waite as saying.

An Iranian deputy foreign minister, Mahmud Va'ezi, called meanwhile for Britain to take steps toward restoring diplomatic ties between Tehran and London, saying such a move would be in the interests of both countries. Mr. al-Musawi called on Britain and West Germany to follow France's example, referring to the decision of French President Francois Mitterrand on July 27 to pardon a pro-Iranian Lebanese militant. "Bravo to France, the release of Anis Naqqash had a positive impact on the sitution of Brian Keenan," the Anglo-Irish hostage who was freed August 24 after more than fours years of captivity, he said.

Iraq To Give Visas for Workers' Return to Kuwait

NC3108170190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has received a telegram from the Lebanese Embassy in Amman stating that the Iraqi Government has agreed to give entry visas to Lebanese nationals who wish to return to Kuwait to resume their work there in the wake of the recent events.

VOL Reports 'Awn News Conference 31 Aug

NC3108171590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has stated that he is proud of his rebellion. He added that he is not aware of anything that would justify military action between his forces and those of either the Lebanese Forces or the government. He noted that he is extending his hand for negotiations.

In a news conference this afternoon, Gen. 'Awn called for toppling the current government and urged the international community, particularly Washington, to reconsider its stand. He reiterated his stand on the al-Ta'if agreement and described it as mere words on paper. He added that the constitutional amendments are not the core of the issue.

'Awn expressed willingness to cooperate with all parties to implement economic measures to rectify the economic situation regardless of political differences. Regarding dialogue, 'Awn said there must be an agreement of principles. He explained that this means that dialogue has certain prerequisites—it must be a dialogue among institutions, and not between the army and a militia.

'Awn Officers, Soldiers Join Legitimate Command

NC0209113790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] The National News Agency has learned from informed sources that a large number of military officers and soldiers have joined the army command positions in al-Ashrafiyah and Kasrawan and have received their wages and high cost of living allowance. The sources added that Michel 'Awn had promised to pay his military men a high cost of living allowance toward the end of last month but had not been able to do so. This prompted these military men to join the legitimate command.

RFL Details Desertions

NC0309192690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Citing security sources, REUTER reports that over the weekend 50 soldiers and seven officers deserted their positions in the areas under 'Awn's control and joined the Lebanese Army command under General Emile Lahhud. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY listed the names of the seven officers who joined the legitimate command. They are Captain Ilyas Abu-Khalil, from the 5th Brigade; Capt. Joseph Firsan, from the 9th Brigade; Capt. Khuri al-Khuri, from the al- Ansar Brigade; First Lieutenant Joseph al-Asmar, from the logisitcs brigade; 1st Lt. Ziyad Ibrahim, from the 10th Brigade; and 1st Lt. Michel Nahlah, from the 9th Brigade.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY also reported that a total of 250 officers and soldiers have joined Gen. Lahhud in the past 10 days.

'Awn Admits Desertions

NC0209200390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Excerpts] General 'Awn has admitted that a number of his soldiers have deserted. He alleged that the soldiers who joined General Emile Lahhud's command did so under pressure. Acting as if he were unaware that he is no longer recognized and that he is a burden on the legitimacy and homeland, Gen. Awn emphasized that his government is the only legitimate government.

Meanwhile, reports arriving from the areas under 'Awn's control speak about a heightened level of military preparedness and the setting up of fortifications not on the front opposite the area between Nahr al-Kalb and Biskinta but in southern al-Matn starting from Galerie Sim'an road. Bulldozers built earth barriers starting from al-Sayyad circle in al-Hazimiyah this morning. This created a state of fear among the citizens who prepared to leave the area. These fortifications were accompanied by military movements and the intensification of observation on the crossing points following the increased departure of military men from the areas under 'Awn's control. [passage omitted]

Citing security sources, REUTER reports that about about 700 soldiers backed by tanks and artillery have deployed near the B'abda area in the past three days. Quoting eyewitnesses, REUTER added that the Syrian forces around the eastern area have been reinforced.

Persons arriving from areas under 'Awn's control have said that his soldiers today began fortifying their positions opposite the Syrian forces and the Army forces under the command of Gen. Lahhud. Eyewitnesses said that a brief clash took place a few minutes after 'Awn's soldiers set up barricades on the Museum crossing point.

'Awn Addresses Army, People on Division

NC0309125590 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Chairman of the Council of Ministers General Michel 'Awn has asserted that an attack on the eastern area will not be a picnic.

Speaking to the army and the people yesterday, Gen. 'Awn said: Unfortunately, the powers that divided Lebanon before 1975 are still the same, namely, some politicians and former deputies. Those people, he said, are trying to involve the military in an internal dispute, so that they can liquidate the military institution completely.

He warned the military that attempts to involve them in the crime of interfighting is merely an attempt by the starvation government to cover up the crimes of stealing and embezzling from the homeland. Gen. 'Awn said: Our barracks are open to you. You are welcome as comrads. However, beware of trying to come under any form other than comrads and brothers in arms.

Army Command Rejects 'Awn 2 Sep Statement

NC0309152490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Statement issued "in response to the 2 September statement of former Army Commander General 'Awn" by the Lebanese Defense Ministry's Information Department in Beirut on 3 September]

[Text] Former Army Commander Gen. Michel 'Awn is once again assuming a role that is no longer his in the military establishment, against whose command's orders he has mutinied after having rebelled against the decision of the legitimate political authority.

The legitimate authority and the political leadership of the country, represented by the legitimate constitutional institutions, affirm that the process of unifying the army and subsequently the country and the process of consolidating the accord and starting reconstruction and development are processes that are based on restoring respect for the law and the state at the expense of all the militias and the forces of faits accomplis that are usurping the powers and role of the state and the law. Meanwhile, the former army commander is seeking to entrench his demand that he be regarded as one of these militias and

that he be dealt with on this basis, giving the confiscated part of the army that is under his mutinous and rebellious domination a character which is rejected by the officers and the soldiers who are forced to serve under him. At the same time, the former army commander constitutes the basic obstacle to the implementation of the mechanism of the national accord document with regard to the dissolution of the militias and the imposition of the state's authority and policy.

While the legitimate political authority is seeking to restore respect for political decisionmaking in the country, out of its commitment to the practice of democracy—without which there can be no salvation for Lebanon—and while it is seeking to prevent a repetition of the bitter experiences of embroiling the army in domestic political conflicts and divisions, rebel officer Michel 'Awn is seeking to incite the army against its legitimate political leadership. By doing so, he is exposing his rebellious intentions which he has never abandoned and behind which he wants to throw the army in order to serve his own goals and political ambitions. In order to achieve his objective, the former army commander is resorting to uttering falsehoods, including his accusation that politicians were responsible for depriving the Army of its allocations for food, uniforms, and boots in 1987, when he is well aware that these politicians, foremost among whom are the members of the Chamber of Deputies, the Chamber's speaker, and then Prime Minister Martyr Rashid Karami, refused to deprive the army of what it needed and approved the allocations in order to preserve the military establishment and guarantee its continued existence despite the pressures that were exerted at that time.

In view of all this, we must reiterate our firm conviction that that the Lebanese Army is one army and that the confiscated part under the command of Gen. 'Awn, with its officers and soldiers, is an indivisible part of this one army. This part of the army is waiting for the time when it will free itself of the state of rebellion that has been imposed on it so that it may join its comrades in arms and citizenship and abide by the orders of its legitimate command and its commander Gen. Emile Lahhud. This time is inevitably coming in the near future.

Al-Huss on Efforts To Secure Economic Aid

NC0209105390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] In a statement today, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said: We will take every possible measure in all fields to ease the burden of the socioeconomic crisis that is sweeping through Lebanon. Following the events in the Gulf, this crisis has reached such acute proportions that society and human beings in Lebanon are in an intolerable and tragic situation.

Al-Huss added: We will seek aid from some fraternal Arab states and from international sources to offset the direct and indirect losses Lebanon has sustained as a result of developments in the Gulf. He said: I explained the current delicate economic and social conditions in Lebanon to the Arab tripartite committee. The committee was very understanding and sympathatic toward the Lebanese authority. I also held meetings with all the delegations that participated in the Arab foreign ministers conference to pave the way for further contacts with some Arab states and international sources in order to obtain aid that will enable us to overcome these extraordinary conditions.

Reponding to a question about the postponement of the meeting that was scheduled to be held to establish an international fund for aiding Lebanon, the prime minister said: It is no secret that the Gulf issue has priority. It has the attention of the fraternal Arab states and the major industrial states which are supposed to participate in the constituent meeting that was scheduled to be held on 10 and 11 September to establish an international fund for aiding Lebanon. However, the postponement of the meeting does not mean that the subject has been disregarded or abandoned. The direct reason for the postponement is that the Arab League has decided to hold an extraordinary meeting in Saudi Arabia on 10 September.

Palestinians Hold Pro-Saddam Demonstration

NC0309171490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] AFP has reported that some 6,000 Palestinians demonstrated in Sidon today in support of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The demonstrators, according to the agency, urged the Iraqi president to lead Arab ranks and carried placards saying: Arab unity under the command of Saddam Husayn.

Israeli Soldiers Reported Killed in South

NC0209174790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Fundamentalist sources have stated that their gunmen used machine guns and rockets to attack a group of Israeli soldiers which was traveling in a truck in the Kafr Hammud area, north of al-Salhani township. Some of the soldiers were killed.

Nation Ready To Send Additional Forces to Gulf

JN3108163290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Syria has again demanded that Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait and voiced readiness to dispatch additional military units to Saudi Arabia to participate in the defense of the Kingdom or any other Gulf state. This came in a statement by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to REUTER news agency in Cairo.

Al-Asad Says Position on Gulf Crisis Unchanged

JN3108191490 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 29 Aug 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has declared that his position on the Gulf crisis is final. He said that his position was the proper pan-Arab position.

During a meeting with representatives of Jordanian and Palestinian popular organizations, the details of which AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has obtained, al-Asad said that the possibility of his subscribing to Saddam Husayn's position is out of the question.

Husayn Mujalli, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, and Bassam al-Shak'ah, the dismissed Nabulus mayor, visited Damascus last week and met with President al-Asad in a bid to make him change his support for the deployment of U.S. troops on Arab land.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI also learned that President al-Asad told them that others before them had informed him that al-Asad's popularity in the streets of the Arab world had considerably declined due to his recent stand on the Gulf crisis. However, al-Asad added that he is determined to stick to his position which he believes reflects the true feelings of the man in the street.

Mujalli and al-Shak'ah informed President al-Asad that they fully represent the Jordanian and Palestinian man in the street. They added that the man in the street urged him to seize the historic opportunity and support Iraq to effect a strategic change in favor of the Arab nation. They went on to say that what substantiates their argument is that the Palestinian organizations that have been based in Damascus over many years support Baghdad and even have expressed readiness to undertake military actions to translate this support into deeds. [passage omitted]

Talas Navy Day Speech Attacks Iraqi Invasion

JN3108131490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Latakia—Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, our Navy celebrated its anniversary yesterday morning. On this occasion pictures were raised of the president, as well as placards and flags. Several sporting events and naval displays also took place.

Deputizing for the president was General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister. He delivered a speech which he began by conveying the president's congratulations on this occasion and wishes of success for the fighters in their duties. He affirmed that celebration of this occasion is an epilogue of the struggle in the heroic history, started by our forefathers in the battle of Dhat-al-Sawari in which the Arab Navy achieved overwhelming victory over the Byzantine fleet.

The general reviewed the Navy's history, our continuous struggle, and efforts made by the Navy so that it might play a decisive role in the crucial battle. He also spoke about the sensitive and serious stage through which our Arab nation is currently passing and the dangers surrounding it, which are considered the greatest dangers it has faced in its modern history. This stage is embodied in the escalation of the colonialist-imperialist expansion as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Moreover, the general said: Despite this danger and what it might entail of threats to pan-Arab security, Iraq still adopts intransigent positions and ignores Arab resolutions. If Iraq adheres to these resolutions, it would spare the region the catastrophes of a destructive war.

He wondered: What has the Iraqi president benefited from the dead of the Iranian revolution? What were the aims of his blatant invasion of Kuwait, other than destroying Arab capabilities, rupturing Arab solidarity, and inviting foreign fleets into the region?

The general stressed that al-Asad's Syria has realized the consequences of such events. Thus, the president warned against the seriousness of the situation in his call to the Arab nation in general, and Iraq in particular, at the summit when he said: The situation is dangerous, very dangerous, and more so than many can imagine. Out of his awareness of the gravity of the situation, he rushed to call for holding an emergency Arab summit in an attempt to contain the crisis at its beginning.

The general said that the regrettable events in the Gulf and their developments have served to divert attention from the central issue; namely, the Palestine question, the Arab-Zionist conflict, the intifadah of our people in the occupied territories, and the dangers of Jewish emigration. The general also stressed that Syria under the leadership of struggler president Hafiz al-Asad continues its efforts and is doing all it can to avert catastrophe and find the appropriate means by which the departure or evacuation of foreign forces from the region can be achieved, since no one will oppose their departure.

Party Leader Praises Al-Asad to Representatives

JN0109134290 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1800 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Safwan Qudsi, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union Party, has praised President al-Asad's

leading role in the confrontation of the dangers threatening the Arab nation's march.

Mr. Qudsi was speaking at a meeting with party representatives of the Governorates of Dayr-al-Zawr and al-Raqqah.

Mr. Qudsi praised President al-Asad's national responsibility and emphasized the backing and support of the Arab Socialist Union Party for President al-Asad's wise and brave leadership.

Party Official Speaks to Writers on Gulf Crisis

JN0109135290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus—The fourth general conference of the Arab Writers' Union, which is being held at union headquarters, opened this morning under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad. Deputizing for the president at the opening was comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The opening ceremony was attended by comrade members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, members of the National Progressive Front's Central Command, ministers, heads of media establishments, head and members of the Arab Writers' Union Executive Office, and members of the conference.

Comrade Qaddah delivered a speech in which he conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to the Arab writers and his great appreciation for the pioneering role they play in the life of the nation.

He said the conference is being held under very dangerous circumstances and at a critical stage in which the Arab nation is facing fateful challenges and is being exposed to a new chapter of the Zionist invasion, manifested in Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Regarding the situation in the Gulf resulting from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, comrade Qaddah said an Arab solution to the crisis is the only possible and useful solution for all Arabs because it will remove the causes of the crisis and respond to the Arab summit's resolution stipulating the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restoral of the situation to its natural state. He declared that this was the sole method to save the nation and the fraternal Iraqi people from the dangers and disasters lurking in wait and to invalidate the pretext for the presence of foreign troops in the region.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Lebanese Industry, Oil Minister

JN0109133790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this morning received Souren Khanamirian, Lebanese minister of industry and oil, accompanied by Raimond Raphael, director general of the Lebanese Oil Ministry. The meeting was attended by Dr. Matanyus Habib, minister of oil and mineral resources, and Dr. Dawud Haydu, director of the oil marketing office at the prime minister's office. Talks dealt with the promotion of bilateral economic cooperation, especially in the field of oil, as well as with means to foster cooperation and lay down practical formulas to achieve the objectives of cooperation stemming from the brotherly relations between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Returns From Cairo Meetings

JN0109165690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this afternoon after participating in the Arab League Council's extraordinary meetings in Cairo.

Seeing him off at Cairo airport was Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian President's Office Director Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the chief of protocol, ranking Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials, Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish, and the embassy staff.

Mr. al-Shar' met this morning with Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Egyptian President's Office Director Dr. Usamah al-Baz. During the meeting they made a thorough evaluation of the results and resolutions of the Arab League Council meeting and ways to implement these resolutions.

Afghanistan

Vice President Calls for Multilateral Conferences

BK0109054990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0159 GMT 1 Sep 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 1 (AFP)—An Afghan vice president widely believed to be a key negotiator with the mujahedeen has called for a conference of the superpowers and regional states to pave the way for elections and peace in Afghanistan. But the conference and a second all-Afghan meeting, said Vice President Abdul Hamid Mohtat, can only be effective after a cease-fire in the country and a dialogue involving all forces in the 12-year-old Afghan conflict that has left more than one million dead.

"Implementation of any peace mechanism can be feasible only in the case of a cease-fire," Mr. Mohtat, formerly in charge of Kabul's foreign affairs, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, adding that a military solution was no option. "Past experiences have proved that a military solution was impossible for a political settlement," said the 45-year-old vice president widely believed to be Kabul's main negotiator with Afghanistan's most influential mujahedeen commander Ahmad Shah Masood in northern Panjeer valley.

The Soviet-backed Kabul government's peace formula calls for a cease-fire, holding the two conferences, forming an election commission to conduct free elections and drafting a new constitution. "We have proposed two conferences... One international in which all neighbouring countries (as well as) the Soviet Union and the United States would participate, while the second would be held inside Afghanistan in which all parties and political forces can participate," the vice president said.

"The United Nations will have a worthy role in the two conferences and it will be here when the commission to coordinate elections would be set up," he said. "But we are also willing to study any other peace scenario presented to us by the opposition (mujahedeen) as the question here is of ensuring peace and we will do anything to achieve that end," Mr. Mohtat said in an interview.

Afghan President Najibullah said while on a visit to India Thursday that India could be of assistance in setting up an international conference. He also spelled out a proposed formula for an election commission to operate while his government apparatus stayed in place. The mujahedeen have so far rejected every peace initiative offered by Kabul, including a recent nationalistic amendment to the constitution, and the introduction of political pluralism in Mr. Najibullah's Watan (Homeland) Party. They have said Mr. Najibullah, a former Afghan secret police chief, must go before any dialogue can begin.

The regime, which has invited the mujahedeen to participate in a broad-based government, denies that its peace initiatives are either cosmetic or a waste of time and blames the continuation of the war on a few extremist rebel groups. "I don't agree that our proposals are ineffective, they have been welcomed by political forces inside the country and by the opposition forces," Mr. Mohtat said, listing the measures taken by the ruling party to shed its political monopoly and the establishment of a 364-seat bicameral parliament after a hiatus of 15 years.

"Two-thirds of the rebel commanders inside Afghanistan are not fighting the government and a number of other commanders are negotiating and several peace protocols have been signed," the Kabul negotiator said. "But of course several mujahedeen groups have not agreed to our peace proposals, (but) we are confident that public opinion will isolate the extremist forces," Mr. Mohtat said, referring to the factions that regularly pound Kabul and other major Afghan cities with U.S.-supplied rockets.

Mr. Mohtat, a vice president since 1987 and a senior Communist Watan Party leader did not disclose details of last month's talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Irkutsk, Siberia, which dealt with the Afghan conflict. "As far as I know the Soviets have said there was no difference between Washington and Moscow on Afghanistan," he said, indicating that moves would be taken "in the near future" towards a political settlement. The Irkutsk meeting was scheduled to be followed by expert level talks between Washington and Moscow.

Explosion Rocks Soviet Embassy in Kabul

BK0409011290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1854 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sept 3 (AFP)—A huge explosion rocked the Soviet Embassy in Kabul late Monday, triggering panic in the area, witnesses said. The blast shattered several windows of the heavily guarded embassy, but there were no immediate reports of anyone being injured or killed.

Witnesses said an Afghan military armoured personnel carrier (APC) parked outside the misson in the Darul Amand area suddenly exploded, but they could not say what caused the blast. Other sources, mostly from the embassy, said a short circuit in the APC's electrical system caused its petrol tank to blow up, consequently igniting ammunition stored in the vehicle.

Bangladesh

Ershad Praises Bush, U.S. Stand on Gulf Crisis

BK0109130790 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] President Ershad says Bangladesh has admired the constructive role of the United States for the creation of a peaceful global environment and a more benevolent world. The president said this while speaking at the

credentials ceremony of the new U.S. ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr. William B. Milam, at Bangabhaban Saturday [1 September].

President Ershad lauded the vision and creative statesmanship of President Bush. He also appreciated the United States' courageous, resolute and honorable stand in the present Gulf crisis. Welcoming the new U.S. ambassador, the president hoped the already excellent ties between the two countries will acquire new dimensions. He recalled with gratitude the positive contributions of the United States in the socioeconomic development of Bangladesh.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Milam praised the efforts of President Ershad to bring about a meaningful economic development and to restore constitutional rule in Bangladesh.

President Addresses Troops Leaving for Gulf

BK0109170290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] President Ershad says Bangladesh is sending troops to Saudi Arabia to uphold a great cause and forge the solidarity of the Islamic Ummah. The president was addressing in Dhaka the officers and jawans [soldiers] of a military contingent which leaves for Sau Arabia tomorrow. He asked them to maintain strict discipline, high professional standard and earn reputation for the country.

The president said the Bangladesh military contingent will be deployed in Saudi Arabia only for defensive purpose and for protection of the holy places from outside invasion. Referring to Gulf crisis, President Ershad again called for withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government there.

General Strike Protests Deployment

BK0309074290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 3 (AFP)—Shops, schools and most offices here were closed Monday in a general strike to protest the Dhaka Government's decision to deploy troops to Saudi Arabia. Major streets in the capital were virtually deserted during the eight-hour work stoppage called by two major opposition groups which took effect at dawn on Monday, witnesses said.

Small groups of strikers marched through downtown Dhaka calling on residents to participate in the protest, they added. Police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles patrolled strategic city areas and officials said there were no reports of violence.

The nationwide strike, the third anti-government strike since June, was called by the eight-party alliance dominated by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League and the five-party left-wing group of Nirmal Sen.

Both groups demanded Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and asked the government to arrange speedy repatriation of tens of thousands of Bangladeshis stranded in the Gulf. An official of the five-party group said the stoppage was also effective in the southeastern port city of Chittagong, the industrial city of Khulna in the southwest and most major Bangladesh towns.

The seven-party opposition alliance headed by Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party neither supported nor opposed the strike. Following a visit by a special envoy of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on August 15 said Bangladesh had decided to send a token contingent of troops to defend the desert kingdom against possible attack by Iraq, which annexed its oil-rich neighbour following the August 2 invasion.

Since the announcement, officials here refused to comment on the deployment, saying details were under discussion. The official BSS News Agency reported that Mr. Ershad on Saturday reviewed troops bound for Saudi Arabia.

BSS did not give the size of the Bangladeshi contingent or the dates of its departure, but defence sources earlier said the first units of at least a 4,000-man contingent would leave for Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

Spokesman on Plans To Evacuate Citizens in Gulf

BK0309165890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] The UN Disaster Relief Organization will operate five flights daily from tomorrow to bring back Bangladeshis stranded in the Middle East. The flights will carry 1,200 people daily. This was stated by a foreign office spokesman, while talking to newsmen in Dhaka today. He said Japan will bear the expenditure of these flights, which would be operated by Soviet aircraft. An agreement will be signed soon for chartering a Florida-based private company's plane for repatriation of (?other) Bangladeshis. Besides, Malaysian aircraft will be pressed into service shortly. The spokesman said attempts are also continuing to charter two ships for bringing back Bangladeshis from Jordan. The Geneva-based international organization for migration will meet the expenditures for the two ships. The number of Bangladeshis now stuck at different points awaiting repatriation is 38,000 with the largest number of 14,000 in Jordan. So far, about 3,160 Bangladeshis have been repatriated.

India

Pakistan Government Warned on Arming Militants

BK0109152290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has warned the new Government of Pakistan to desist

from the continued arms assistance to the militants in Kashmir. Addressing public meetings at Bhadarwah and Kishtwar towns of Doda District today, the home minister said the sovereignty and integrity of the country will never be compromised. He said the people of Kashmir Valley want peace, as terrorism has created economic hardships for them. He said the government does not believe in the policy of bullet for bullet and wants to solve the problems of the people through negotiations.

Government To Join Nonaligned Moves on Crisis

BK0109162690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] India is making efforts for the UN Security Council meeting to take steps to ease the economic crisis faced by developing countries because of the current crisis in the Gulf. The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has written a letter to UN secretary general, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, and the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] secretary general, Mr. Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav foreign minister, in this connection.

India has also agreed to join a three-nation group of the Nonaligned Movement to find a political solution and defuse the situation in the Gulf. Algeria's response to the proposal put forward by the NAM chairman is being awaited. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman expressed India's readiness to join any international efforts to supply food and medicines to Kuwait and Iraq. It is New Delhi's opinion that the UN-mandated sanctions do not imply starving a nation to gain political advantage. Any interdiction of supplies of food and medicines would be inhuman and uncivilized, New Delhi feels.

Premier Views National Issues, Gulf Crisis

BK0109165690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said that the center will not impose on the state its decision on the Mandal Commission's recommendations, but they should realize the importance. Speaking to newsmen on board a special IAF [Indian Air Force] aircraft while returning to New Delhi from Ahmedabad this afternoon, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh however pointed out that some states have already reserved a higher quota for the socially and educationally backward communities and by deciding to implement the commission's report, the center has only brought about a parity. The prime minister said legal opinion will be taken on the question of limiting the total percentage of reservations to 50 as conflicting views have been expressed. Earlier, clarifying the government's stand on the reservation issue at a news conference in Ahmedabad, Mr. Singh reiterated his offer to hold talks with the agitating students to remove their misgivings. The government, he said, does not want any conflict to occur among various sections of the society. It only desires to ensure social justice. He said the poor should get a fair share in running the country and come out of the shackles of poverty. He called for a national debate on his proposal to reserve for the poor 40 percent of the seats in parliament and state legislatures. The prime minister said the National Front government is trying to enact legislations on all important poll promises, like the right to work, in the very first year of its office so that they can be implemented during the remaining term of four years. The right to work, he said, is meant to create political pressure on the government to follow a policy of creating more jobs.

On Punjab, the prime minister said he will consult all political parties on holding elections in the state. He said he will undertake intensive tour of the state despite the provocative statement by the Akali Dal-Mann.

Answering a question, Mr. V.P. Singh said the Jammu and Kashmir government has notably succeeded in checking terrorism and secessionism. Any solution to the problem, he said, has to come from the people of the state.

The prime minister regretted that some disinformation campaign is going on in Assam for gaining political mileage, but the center has taken several steps to solve the problems of the state and has accorded high priority to its development. He said he will visit the northeastern region after the current session of parliament. The prime minister said the government has been able to check pressure on money supply and deficit financing. The prices of sugar and cement have stabilized and dehoarding operations are being intensified. Replying to a question, Mr. V.P. Singh said the authenticity of the two documents relating to the Bofors deal as published in a Bombay daily recently will be ascertained. He pointed out that the Swedish authorities have been asked to provide all papers relating to the deal.

The prime minister said India's response to the Gulf crisis is a major success of the government's foreign policy. He disclosed that the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, Yugoslavia, is convening a meeting to discuss the NAM initiative to defuse the crisis at India's instance.

He said Iran has permitted India to use its airspace for evacuating by air our nationals from Kuwait. Two central ministers—Mr. P. Unnikrishnan, and Mr. Sreedharan—will shortly visit the Gulf countries to meet the Indian nationals who are facing hardships. Earlier at Ahmedabad, the prime minister announced an assistance of 31.88 crore rupees for the flood victims in Gujarat. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Advises Nationals on Evacuation Efforts

BK0309163590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] New Delhi has again advised Indian nationals stranded in Kuwait not to rush to Basra or Amman, as the plan to evacuate them directly from Baghdad, Basra, and possibly Kuwait is being worked out. A spokesman of the external affairs ministry said that there are about

12,000 Indian nationals accommodated at two camp sites at the border near Amman.

Air India is to further step up the pace of evacuation of stranded Indian nationals from Amman. A spokesman of the airline said in New Delhi today that the Air India is seeking to involve some international carriers in the operation. An additional 1,000 seats will be available every day once the extra chartered flights are finalized.

USSR, Saudi Arabia, Others To Supply Oil

BK0209143590 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] India is to get about 50 lakh tons of additional crude oil from the Soviet Union, Saudi Arabia, Iran and some other countries which will ease its tight supply position created by the Gulf crisis. This was stated by the petroleum minister, Mr. Gurupadaswamy, in New Delhi today. He told PTI that the additional supplies will make up the entire shortfall of crude caused by the disruption of supplies from Iraq and Kuwait.

Details on USSR Supply

BK0409035090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The Soviet Union will supply 5.5 lakh [100,000] tons of crude oil to India during this month. This was disclosed to the Indian delegation which visited the Soviet Union last week. The visit was part of the government's efforts to ensure an uninterrupted supply of crude oil and petroleum products during the year.

Premier Rules Out Lok Sabha Mid-Term Elections

BK3108132990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has categorically ruled out the possibility of mid-term elections to Lok Sabha. Addressing a meeting of the National Front parliamentary party in New Delhi today, he said he has taken almost one year for bringing necessary legislation to give effect to the pledges made in the election manifesto. The government will now concentrate on implementing these legislations in the next four years.

Briefing newsmen, the party secretary, Mr. Ajay Singh, said the meeting discussed in detail the right-to-work promise of the front government and its decision to implement the Mondal Commission recommendations [on job reservation for the underprivileged class]. It was decided at the meeting to set up a committee of party MP's [members of Parliament] to go into all aspects of the issue before legislation is introduced in the next session of parliament to give effect to the proposal. Mr. Ajay Singh said the prime minister agreed to a demand for a thorough discussion by the National Front parliamentary party on the reservation issue. He said it will meet on Monday [3 September] before an all-party meeting convened by the government later in the evening to evolve a common approach to the reservation policy for backward classes.

Police Fire on Marchers in Kashmir; One Killed

BK3108173290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1700 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 31 (AFP)—Police opened fire and used teargas and batons to break up Moslem marchers on the U.N. office in Indian Kashmir Friday, killing at least one person and injuring three more, reports said. Meanwhile, nine people died in other incidents of violence linked to a Moslem separatist campaign in the northern region late Thursday and Friday, officials said.

Police opened fire when hundreds of Moslems on way to the U.N. office tried to break a police cordon in the Saidpora Sector of Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, the sources here said. One person was killed and three more were injured, they said.

The marchers were to present a memorandum to the world body to seek its intervention to stop alleged excesses committed by security forces during actions against Moslem militants fighting for the secession of Kashmir. Police also dispersed similar marchers by firing teargas and charging with batons in Srinagar's Rajouri Kadal, Zanakadal and Jamia mosque areas, the sources said.

Militants threw a hand grenade at a paramilitary patrol at another site in Srinagar, but it missed the target and hit a woman, killing her instantly, the sources said. Some three more people, including two paramilitary troopers, were injured. In the Kashmir town of Anantnag, two paramilitry troopers injured in a similar grenade attack overnight died in hospital later, the sources said.

Five more people were killed in separatist-linked violence elsewhere in the Kashmir Valley, including three militants shot dead by security forces on the border with Pakistan, which also claims Kashmir, the only Moslem-majority Indian state. India accuses Pakistan of aiding the separatists, a charge Islamabad rejects. More than 1,500 people have died in separatist-linked violence so far this year in Kashmir.

18 Killed in Kashmir; Army Called Out

BK0209161590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1549 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Jammu, India, Sept 2 (AFP)—Moslem separatists abducted and killed three Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel in Kashmir Sunday amid a fresh outbreak of violence which left 15 other people dead. In a related development, Indian troops were called out in parts of Srinagar, the Moslem-majority summer capital of the northern state, to restore order after 28 people were wounded.

Moslem militants abducted the three IAF officials as they were going to their office early Sunday and their bullet-riddled bodies were found on a road later, officials here in the winter capital of Kashmir said.

Eleven people, including two security men, were killed in gunbattles between militants and security forces across Srinagar Sunday, while four suspected police informers were gunned down by suspected separatists overnight Saturday. The security men and three people died in a 30-minute firefight in Srinagar's downtown Khanyar area when authorities lifted a curfew briefly, officials said.

Another gunbattle in the neighbouring Nowpora District left two people dead and 10 wounded while two civilians travelling in a jeep were killed and 11 wounded when they were caught in crossfire in Srinagar's dalgate area, they added.

The Kashmir administration immediately imposed a curfew in several areas of Srinagar and called out the Army, which took control of several Moslem-majority districts in the city. No violence was reported after the Army deployment. The separatist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, has claimed more than 1,500 lives so far this year.

Spokesman Denies Report

BK0309051890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] In Srinagar, terrorists ambushed a security force vehicle in Takhbir Saheb area yesterday injuring two security forces personnel by heavy firing. They later set the vehicle on fire. The security forces returned the fire. In the cross firing two civilians were killed and four houses were partly burnt.

An official spokesman has denied the news agency report that 18 persons were killed in Kashmir on Saturday [1 September]. The spokesman regretted that some news agencies and newspapers had been giving high death toll figures despite daily official briefings.

Kashmir Governor Pessimistic on End to Violence

BK0309114890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 3 (AFP)—The governor of Jammu and Kashmir State has said India is fighting an imposed "guerrilla war" in Moslem-majority Kashmir, and held out little hope of a quick end to bloodshed in the state.

Describing the situation as serious but not alarming, Girish Saxena said in an interview here Sunday that intelligence agencies had reported some 2,000 Pakistani-trained Kashmiris "active" in the Kashmir Valley. The government would not ease up on its drive against terrorist activity, including a renewed spate of rocket attacks, he said.

He confirmed that militant attacks had continued despite last months's capture of the top leadership of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) which the government had hoped would "curb militancy to some extent."

Mr. Saxena, 63, was speaking five months after taking office with the vow to return normalcy to Kashmir "even if it took 10 years" and on the eve of a mass strike by government employees protesting alleged atrocities by troops.

The former chief of India's External Intelligence Agency, the research and analysis wing said another 5,000 Pakistan-trained Kashmiris were waiting to infiltrate the line of control which divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

The two countries have fought two of their three wars over the disputed region, now the scene of a bloody anti-Indian movement that has claimed more than 1,500 lives this year. Pakistan rejects Indian charges that it is helping the militants.

"We are fighting a guerilla war on Indian soil thrust on us by Pakistani warmongers in a bid to grab the Kashmir Valley," Mr. Saxena said. Despite what he called a "discernable change in attitude" among Kashmiri Moslems in that they were now eager for normalcy to be restored, he held out no hope for a let-up in the violence.

On the one hand, he said, people were too afraid of the militants to "give vent to their feelings" and on the other the security forces could not give up their drive against the militants.

Militant plans to stir up large scale public disturbances during the months of July and August had been largely foiled and there had been recent instances of youths, who had recieved training across the border, secretly surrendering their arms on return, Mr. Saxena said. But on the psychological front he conceded failure to blunt what he called a "disinformation campaign" which "distorted and blew out of all proportion" alleged violence by security forces on the population.

The government, he insisted, had taken all possible measures to avoid excesses, despite the critical situation. Mr. Saxena also detailed huge quantities of arms and ammunition recovered from militant hideouts, including 600 AK-47 rifles, 700 anti-personnel mines, 80 anti-tank guns, 200 rockets and hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition.

General Strike in Kashmir 'Paralyzing' Region

BK0309104490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 3 (AFP)—Kashmiris observed a general strike Monday in sympathy with government employees who went on strike to force the reinstatement of colleagues sacked for alleged involvement with Moslem militants.

Shops and businesses, hotels and restaurants were shut, and transport stayed off the roads, paralysing normal life

all over the strife-torn Kashmir Valley, officials and witnesses said. The strike silenced the valley as some 200,000 government employees began a five-day work boycott to force the reinstatement of their dismissed colleagues and press for a halt to alleged persecution of Moslems by security forces.

A spokesman for the striking employees said here in Kashmir's summer capital that work in all federal and state government offices, banks and public sector institutions had come to a standstill. How many Kashmiri civil servants have been sacked—and how many arrested—on charges of involvement with Moslem militants is not known.

Employees have frequently alleged persecution by the Indian Government in its drive against Moslem separatists and accused security forces of unleashing a wave of repression against innocent civilians.

Meanwhile, Army and paramilitary troops enforced a strict curfew Monday in parts of Srinagar where Moslem militants and security forces exchanged intermittent gunfire overnight, officials said. Nine people, including four men of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), were killed in the gunbattles by official count.

The identitities of the other five dead were unclear. Many civilians caught in the crossfire have died in similar exchanges in the past. Violence linked to the Moslem militant campaign for an independent Kashmir has left more than 1,500 people dead so far this year in India's only Moslem-majority state, which borders Pakistan.

Army Helps Run Services

BK0309154790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1432 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 3 (AFP)—The Indian Army was helping run essential services in Kashmir after a general strike called by Moslem militants crippled normal life Monday, officials said. The five-day strike by some 200,000 state government employees across the Kashmir valley was called in support for colleagues dismissed for their alleged involvement in the militant's separatist campaign.

Shops, hotels and restaurants were shut with transport off the roads, paralysing normal life all over the Moslem-majority valley, officials said. Indian Army engineers called out by the Jammu and Kashmir state government were helping run water and power distribution systems in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, and in a number of other major towns, officials said.

A spokesman for the striking employees said work in all federal and state government offices, banks and public sector institutions had come to a standstill. "It is an unprecedented situation," a state government official said of the strike, called also to protest alleged persecution of Moslems by security forces.

How many Kashmiri civil servants have been sacked or arrested on charges of involvement with Moslem militants is not known. Employees have frequently alleged persecution by the Indian government in its drive against Moslem separatists and accused the security forces of unleashing a wave of repression against innocent civilians. Meanwhile, army and paramilitary troops enforced a strict curfew Monday in parts of Srinagar where Moslem militants and security forces exchanged intermittent gunfire overnight, officials said.

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Presidential Rule in Jammu, Kashmir Approved

BK0309153790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Parliament has approved the imposition of president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir. Both the houses have also adopted a bill seeking to give special powers to armed forces operating in the disturbed areas of the border state. The Rajya Sabha today adopted the two measures, which have already received the approval of the Lok Sabha.

Replying to the debate the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, said special powers to armed forces are necessary to check the designs of Pakistani-trained militants, who want to create lawlessness in the valley. He assured the house that a screening committee has been set up to go into any complaint of alleged excesses by the security personnel and asked the members not to blow up such isolated incidents. Mr. Sahay said the state government employees have called off their proposed strike from today, following a discussion with the administration.

After the minister's reply, the house rejected a statutory resolution moved by Mr. S.S. Aluwalia, Congress-I, disapproving the Special Powers Ordinance now replaced by a bill.

Iran

Emami-Kashani Conducts Friday Prayers

LD3108171990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1131 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Second Friday Prayer sermon conducted by Emami-Kashani at Tehran University on 31 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The arrogant world joined hands to destroy the Islamic system. But they all failed.

They were defeated by the Islamic Republic. I will interpret the meaning of defeat here. You wonder why I say defeat, because we did not suffer a military defeat. There are two types of defeat: a military defeat, and a social feat, or political defeat. The Islamic Republic became victorious, not with a military victory, but with a political victory against the entire world. That is, today the entire world admits that the Islamic Republic is a firm and stable system, committed to principles, international, and global laws; and it was committed to the same principles from the first day. [Shouts of approval from the crowd] But they thought they would become victorious. Now they are like hell-dwellers. The Koran says: When the hell-dwellers meet each other, they rebuke each other.

Now they are all rebuking each other. A group of them gathered together. Some of them paid money, others provided weapons, and a group joined as mercenaries [in the war against Iran]. They did all this, and in the end they were all disgraced. That is, at the present all of those who had joined hands during the past 10 years, the United States, its Western allies, regional allies, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and all the rest of them, are ashamed, disgraced, and condemned in the eyes of their own nations and the nations of the world. Their nations are asking them: Why did you do what you did in the past 10 years?

The only proud party which rose from the midst of clouds was the sun of the Islamic Republic and the sun of Islam. See what God can do. What was the reason? The reason for so much glory is a cause which has roots in God, that is, the people's unity, martyrdom, devotion, imprisonment, tears, prayers and the self-sacrifice of our dear sons on the front who shed tears while saying their midnight prayer. They were either martyred or taken prisoner.

These were the results. One must find the origin [of this devotion]. Why did God create this role? Why does God tell the Prophet in the noble Koran: "All of those who have united against you shall fall out with one another; you are the great one. Why are you great? Because you recognised your God". God knows who is on the right path and who is lost. This was the outcome of all that devotion and steadfastness. We must learn a lesson from this. We must conclude that worshipping God will play a role and that sincerity works. The Imam of the Ummah's sincerity paid off.

Our dear ones' sincerity paid off. We must realize that obeying God will give one everything. On the other hand, abandoning God will deprive one of everything. All those who have gathered together now [in the Persian Gulf] are a handful of godless [people]. They are the same godless [people] who had united against the Islamic Republic, and now God has turned them against one another. One must learn a lesson from this. In fact, the world should learn a lesson from this. Our nation already, and most of them, are on the right path. This was God's mercy. [passage omitted]

That was one point about the regional issues. Another point I would like to make is that today it is usually said that the Iraqi regime has gone into Kuwait, taken her over by military means, and that America and all her friends and accomplices and their equipment, are massed in the region under the pretext of preventing aggression.

However, what matters now is that there is another aspect to the case. That is, two groups are condemned in this case. One is the foreign forces that have come. They are condemned by the Muslim world and must leave the region. The world of Islam and the Muslim people do not accept the presence of America, her lackeys, and gangs in the region. [crowd chants]

The second group that is condemned in this tale, and should desist, is the Iraqi Government itself. As the Islamic Republic has repeated, declared peace is a true and fundamental peace, but this is a separate issue. The Iraqi Government must evacuate as soon as possible. Recognized international borders must be preserved. That was the second group.

Without a doubt, Islamic, humanitarian, and international principles dictate that our country and all Muslims should be united in both cases, foreign forces' departure from the region and Iraq's departure from Kuwait.

The third point is that if a person commits aggression, like Iraq, and enters Kuwait, who should come forward and resolve the matter? Should they come from the other side of the world? By right, the regional countries and governments should do it. Why is this not the case? Why does this concord not exist? Why are the regional governments not united? At the outset, the Islamic Republic said: Let us get together, but they were frightened. They thought the Islamic Republic would enter their land and damage it. The Islamic Republic has been and is the regime with the strongest adherence to international principles. Who in the world could you find who was more adherent than when Iraq was bombarding our towns? Our imam's voice—which is still preserved on tapes at the Voice and Vision—was raised, saying: Although Iraq is bombing our towns, I will not permit you to fire one bullet at the enemy, because the people are not at fault. In the beginning, that was what our imam said, but later on, because our towns came under many attacks, the imam said for every ten towns they hit, attack one as a deterrent. [passage omitted]

From the very first day, the Islamic Republic has not coveted one inch of another person's land. Yes, the Islamic Republic system has an ideology with followers. That is the ideology of Islam. The world's nations follow it. For ten years they have attacked it, but from this side of the horizon it stands proud, like the sun, and shines much more than in the early days, thank God. [Koranic verse in Arabic]

The regional governments should unite as soon as possible, throw out the foreigners, and force Iraq to withdraw her troops from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The fourth point I would like to make is that last week was Government Week. Thank God, the Goverment of the Islamic Republic of Iran has sound and competent management skills, is familiar with accurate political and economic values, and is involved in implementing programs and planning in accordance with Islamic principles, the Constitution, and wisdom.

Thank God it has achieved outstanding success. With the support and assistance of all the organs and our dear nation we hope that our government will, God willing, be able to solve the problems one after the other. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Rafsanjani Letter to Saddam

NC0309185090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
16 Aug 90 pp 1, 12

["Text" of letter from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani dated 8 August in response to 3 August letter from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn]

[Text] Praise be to God, the cherisher and sustainer of the worlds. Prayers and peace be upon his Prophet Muhammad and his chaste scion.

Your Excellency esteemed President Saddam Husayn:
I have received your letter of 3 August 1990. Even though on the whole this letter was apparently aimed at achieving progress in the peace talks, nevertheless parts of it were regrettable.

First of all, I deem it necessary to reemphasize the will and wish of the Islamic Republic of Iran that a just and lasting peace be achieved. I hope that you too have reached this conclusion. After the acceptance of Resolution 598 and in full awareness of our responsibilities vis-a-vis peace and its repercussions, we started a sincere movement and decided that we would have nothing in mind but the legal and unalterable rights of the Iranian nation on the path to peace. And this is what we did. Our stand has been clarified to you by our approach throughout the talks which took place under the supervision of the UN secretary general as well as in the answer to your letter and in the talks that my and your representatives are holding in Geneva.

Expediting peace and taking practical steps toward the implementation of Resolution 598 instead of writing letters and holding lengthy talks were among the points that we emphasized at the outset of the talks between our two countries' representatives in Geneva. Now too we believe that progress on the contents of the talks and not on their form, and efforts to clarify where we stand on matters that are the key to opening the door to peace will bring us closer to our goal—a goal that can remove any potential grounds for upsetting the current situation or any artificial grounds created by the enemies of Islam under the special conditions prevailing in the world and in the region today. This is how peace can be placed within the reach of the two neighboring countries. Forces that have been engaged with each other can be disengaged and put at the service of the vital needs of both nations and their energies and tasks can be directed at construction and peace and security in the region.

In view of the above, it is necessary to look at the following points which were found in your letter dated 12 Mordad 1369 (3 August 1990), the unsigned letter of 8 Mordad 1369 (30 July 1990), and your letter of 25 Tir 1369 (16 July 1990):

1. A meeting and talks on the level higher than that which exists in Geneva today will be acceptable only when the current Geneva talks produce concrete results and become the basis for the stages that will follow. However, you know that in Geneva, apart from becoming better acquainted with each other's views, we have not made any significant progress, while the mission of your and our representives was to discuss matters of substance. This is why, as we explained previously, a meeting between the two presidents can be useful only when important and key issues have been clarified and solved. Otherwise, the two presidents' participation in talks can have detrimental effects on peace and make it more inaccessible for both countries.

2. In your letter dated 8 Mordad 1369 [30 July 1990] some proposals were put forward on the Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab]. Even though this represented a lowering of the claims you made in former statements, nevertheless it must be clear to you that we cannot accept these proposals. Our specific proposal is that the 1975 points [of the Algiers accord] become the basis for peace talks because without respect for past agreements, especially an agreement which bears your own signature, we cannot expect trust to exist on what is said today.

3. A two-month deadline has been set for withdrawing from occupied Iranian territory. This cannot be justified because this withdrawal is something that can be completed in one of two days if it is coupled with goodwill. In his plan, the secretary general had set a two-week deadline [for the withdrawal] and a three-month deadline for the release of the prisoners of war.

4. It is surprising that Arabism was resorted to to criticize our just stand on the Iraqi Army's occupation of Kuwaiti territory, when one of the surest means of paving the way for the extensive presence of foreign forces in the region is to destroy the tranquillity of and create problems for the Muslim people, for Islamic solidarity, and for neighborliness; to upset regional stability and security; to alter the state of the fronts; and to neglect international commitments. How can a letter that begins in the name of God Almighty and ends with the inspiring words of God is great be contrary to the explicit teachings of Islam and the Koran, and the principle of race be considered to come before the principle of Islam and faith?

"All believers are brothers" and "this nation of yours is one..." and "we created you from male and female" and "we made you peoples and tribes so that you may know each other" and "the most devout will be honored by God." [Koranic verses]

All this is sufficient for each Muslim to place Islamic principles above race, geography, and language. You know better than anyone what the policies of the Kuwaiti Government were during the war and the extent of their injustice vis-a-vis the Islamic revolution of Iran. However, our stand has nothing to do with individuals. It is based on our principles.

5. Undoubtedly at a time when peace talks are under way between two countries, an incredible aggression against a neighboring country took place without any notice and coordination. This could have had serious effects on us, weakened our trust, and created profound doubts about the motive of the talks that have been going on for the past few months. This happened especially at this time when we have not witnessed any steps that manifest goodwill, but have instead witnessed an insistence on continuing the occupation of territories and even encountered opposition over a minor issue such as extinguishing fires at oil wells, which result in nothing but the wasting of the Islamic homeland's capital.

6. The tone of your recent letter does not conform with the conditions that are necessary for the talks. The ineffectiveness of the tone that was used in the past against our Muslim and revolutionary nation has been proven. Referring to the new stands by your past friends and mentors in an effort to persuade us is not appropriate—because you know that we have tested all these phases in deeds and have proven that we count on the people's faith, resistance, and support more than anything else. We have shown that we do not attach much importance to the wrath or kindness of others in order to make this the basis for a program for our life, for our stands, and for our important decisions. We do not want to exploit the current conditions. All we want are our legal rights. This is what we have emphasized during all the phases of the talks.

7. We fully accept the point emphasized in your letter about speedy movement toward peace. However, what accelerates movement toward peace is not taking the first step by propounding proposals about procedures or about raising the level of the talks without any progress having been achieved on the contents of the talks. What needs to be done is for us to remain faithful to internationally recognized agreements between the two countries and not demand anything beyond our legitimate rights because it is inconceivable that what was not achieved during eight years of war can be achieved through talks. If we accept this, then there is no need for us to look for something other than the 1975 agreement in order to demarcate our land and river borders. And if we do not accept this, then it is better to assign the implementation of the resolution to the United Nations and to the Security Council while maintaining Geneva as a venue for an exchange of views on mutual problems.

Peace be upon you.
[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani
[Dated] 16 Muharram 1411 or 17 Mordad 1369 [8 August 1990]

Rafsanjani Chairs Security Council Session 1 Sep

LD0109164990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a session this afternoon chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the session the latest political and military conditions in the region, as well as progress of peace between Iran and Iraq, were reviewed and appropriate decisions were made.

Rafsanjani on National Reserves, Banks

LD0309124390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] In a visit to the National Jewels Museum, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke to a gathering comprising the governor, directors, and staff of the Central Bank. Referring to the fact that today the country's most important goal is speed of action and that banks can, by creating beneficial and effective competition among themselves, play an effective role in the country's economic growth, he said: In the new era, in which production is the country's main slogan, banks can act more effectively and, in addition to supporting producers, they can remove obstacles which slow down movement in that field.

The president said that the country has a good export potential and noted: useful measures have been taken toward increasing non-oil exports and it is hoped that there will be developments in connection with the country's exports.

Referring to the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from six towns and many villages in the border region, the president said: In view of the fact that many of the resources of the five-year plan for the country's economic development will be spent on reconstructing quake and war-stricken regions, banks can be a source of a multitude of services with the resources at their disposal.

In an interview with our reporter at the end of his visit to the National Jewels Museum, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised and thanked the staff of the Central Bank and the national jewels treasury for their services and, in connection with the protection and preservation of these tremendous reserves and great national security, he said: Throughout the period of war and revolution these reserves did not at all diminish, and, even at a time when missiles were falling on Tehran and when it was felt that there might be some damage to this collection, the heads of the three branches [of government] decided that the jewels in this center should be gathered together under very strict criteria and a very precise record drawn up. And, with consideration given to a suitable location and to full supervision in transport, protection and return to the original place, that important task was undertaken and we can see today that this great source of wealth and great national security which, according to experts, is unique in the world, can be once again viewed by the people.

According to the Central News Unit, during the president's visit to the national jewels treasury, Mr. Adeli, governor of the Central Bank, presented a report about the Islamic banking system and new developments in that field and said: The new banking system has established an equilibrium in society and with the better implementation of this decision and with the propogation of the Islamic banking system, more and better services can be given to the people.

Transit of 100,000 Foreigners From Kuwait Approved

LD0209175290 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), Sep. 2, IRNA—The Islamic Republic is ready to provide transit facilities for 100,000 of the foreigners stranded in Kuwait. A Commerce Ministry official told IRNA Saturday [1 September] that embassies in Tehran will help coordinate an orderly departure from Iran of their respective nationals entering the country via the Shalamcheh border.

He said some 5,000 foreigners fleeing Kuwait are waiting at the Shalamcheh border with Iraq for permits to enter Iran. Twenty percent of them are from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, most of whom with no vehicles of their own. These people will be transferred to the Mirjaveh border with Pakistan on the east to enable them to return home, he added.

Necessary facilities have been arranged for foreigners seeking passage through Iran. The arrival of Kuwait-based Iranian and foreigners through Shalamcheh began on 19 August.

Further POW Exchange With Iraq Reported

LD0109071690 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sep. 1, IRNA—The fifth group of the unregistered Iranian prisoners of war, numbering about 900, arrived in Iran through the Khosrawi border region Friday afternoon. Meanwhile, an equal number of Iraqi POWs were handed over to the Iraqi officials through Khosrawi-Manzariyeh border points. The repatriation took place under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The arrival of the latest group brought to 20,126 the number of the Iranian POWs who entered Iran through Khosrawi border point since the start of POWs' repatriation on August 17.

900 Exchanged 2 Sep

LD0209185190 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sep. 2, IRNA—The seventh batch of unregistered Iranian prisoners of war numbering 900 arrived home today via the Khosravi border point. At the same time, an equal number of Iraqi POWs were repatriated to Mandhariya on the other side of the border.

The arrival of the latest batch took the number of homecoming POWs to 22,000 since the swap began on August 17 following Saddam Husayn's acceptance of Iran's terms for peace.

Vaezi Urges UK To Take Steps To Restore Ties

NC0209201990 Paris AFP in English 1935 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep 2 (AFP)—A senior Iranian official has appealed to Britain to take steps toward restoring diplomatic ties between Tehran and London, saying such a move would be in the interest of both countries.

Mahmud Vaezi, Iranian deputy foreign minister responsible for Europe and the United States, told the English-language TEHRAN TIMES newspaper in its edition appearing Monday: "The Islamic Republic can remain committed to its principles and at the same time have important regional and international cooperation with Britain."

Iran severed ties with Britain in March 1989 in a bitter row over "The Satanic Verses," a novel by Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie deemed here to have blasphemed Islam.

The late Iranian spiritual guide, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, issued a death sentence against Mr. Rushdie in February 1989. Iran a month later broke relations after Britain refused to distance itself from the novel to Tehran's satisfaction.

Mr. Vaezi acknowledged that differences remained between Tehran and London, but he added: "To solve these, the British Government should take steps."

Renewed ties, he said, "would be in the interest of both Britain and Iran in bilateral relations as well as in regional and international cooperation."

He said the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which Iran like Britain has condemned, "not only showed Iran's commitment to international law but also proved Tehran's strategic importance as the most important country in the region."

Mr. Vaezi added that "in our view the British Government has complied with the Majlis (parliament) decision on Rushdie and high-ranking British officials have shown an interest in re-establishing diplomatic relations with us."

Iran's Supreme National Security Council, the country's highest decision-making body, on August 4 proclaimed its support for restoring normal diplomatic ties with Britain.

The council at a meeting chaired by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani found that remarks by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on August 1 had fulfilled demands by the Iranian parliament concerning Mr. Rushdie and his novel.

Mr. Hurd said Britain had not intended to insult Islam and had had nothing to do with the publication of "The Satanic Verses."

A Foreign Office spokesman later said Britain had noted the council's decision with interest but called for "a substantive gesture of good will" in the face of remaining obstacles to better relations.

UK's Waldegrave on Crisis, Strengthening Ties

LD0309211190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Excerpts] William Waldegrave, Britain's minister of state for foreign affairs, has announced that Kuwait will soon regain its independence. He said this on Monday, in an interview with the newspaper [QATARI AL-ARAB], and added: The only way Saddam can escape this crisis is for the Iraqi armed forces to withdraw from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

In another part of this interview, Mr. Waldegrave, with regard to his contry's relations with Iran, said: Britain would like to strengthen political relations with Iran and, under present circumstances, we need to have direct talks with Iran about solving the Persian Gulf crisis.

Commentary Views Stand on Rushdie, Roger Cooper

LD0309131190 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 3 IRNA—An Iranian daily Monday reiterated that the path to resumption of ties with Britain is open but that Iran's stance vis-a-vis Salman Rushdie and Roger Cooper remains unaltered.

The Persian Daily 'JOMHURIYE ESLAMI' in an inside page commentary referring to last Saturday's statements by British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave on improvements with Iran said that what the British statesmen have stated recently "is indicative of their willingness to reconsider their hostile policies towards the Islamic Republic."

"The way to normalization of ties (between Iran and Britain) will be open if the British Government is willing to reconsider its erroneous and spiteful policies of the past and undertakes to be content with a reciprocal and justful relation with the Islamic Republic," it stated.

But, if the British statesmen continue to foster the desires of British imperialism, the efforts made by the British official will be in vain. Moreover, the paper continued, the British Government must not doubt Islamic Republic's allegiance to the late Imam Khomeyni's death edict on the Indian born British author of "The Satanic Verses" Salman Rushdie who blasphemed Islam and Islamic sanctities. It must also rest assured that the case of the British spy Roger Cooper is separate from other issues, it added. Otherwise, the paper concluded, London cannot be hopeful about improvement of its ties with Tehran."

Commentary Analyzes British Position on Crisis

NC0409102890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] The Iraqi military aggression against Kuwait has embroiled the region in a dangerous crisis. Despite the fact that the international community has unanimously condemned the Iraqi action, it does not mean that the motivation or objectives of all these countries are in harmony with one another. Among them, the British government's stance is distinctive.

Great Britain was the first European country which sent its forces to the Persian Gulf along with the United States, for the defense of Saudi Arabia. British officials also embarked on visits to the region in order to coordinate and motivate countries in the region to support U.S. and British policy in the region. These include the recent visit by the British defense secretary, which is currently in progress.

According to British political experts, at a time when Europe is striving to adopt an independent stance on the Persian Gulf crisis, and for this purpose it has taken steps to establish a command of the members of the West European countries in Paris, what can be the motivation for Great Britain to emulate U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf?

In order to answer this question, one must assess what does Great Britain, or more precisely, the Conservative government of Mrs. Thatcher stand to gain by pursuing such a policy. In view of the fact that, on principle, one of Mrs Thatcher's policies after assuming office was to forge close ties with the United States, but as the European union adopted a more unified stance, the British government's posture on the need for a strong link with the United States came under question.

Mrs. Thatcher is one of the proponents of the thesis of NATO's military structure, spearheaded by the United States, which cannot be accepted by all the European countries including France. With the crisis in the Persian Gulf, Mrs. Thatcher clearly reiterated her earlier opinion and announced that NATO should continue to play its originally-conceived role. This time, however, it will be pitched against the danger which confronts Europe from the Third World.

According to analysts, the resolve of the West European countries for solidarity, as well as for the adopting an independent stance on various international issues is so strong that even a crisis at this level cannot overshadow it. The activation of the West European Union, the establishment of a joint command for the forces of this Union in Paris and, similarly, the support for the attainment of an amicable settlement are all indicative of the continuing trend of this Union. Whether the British Conservative government's stance will be able to exert

any influence on British or European public opinion regarding the regional crisis after it ends can only await future developments.

UN Refugees Official Arrives in Tehran

To Discuss Gulf Crisis

NC3108074090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg, head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] and deputy UN secretary general [title as received] arrived in Tehran at the head of a UN delegation this morning.

During his stay in Iran, the head of the UNHCR will meet with our country's officials and discuss Afghan refugee affairs, the Persian Gulf crisis, and the foreigners living in Kuwait who intend to travel through Iran on their way home. Mr. Stoltenberg's former posts in the Norwegian cabinet were minister of foreign affairs and minister of defense.

Comments on Afghan Refugees

NC0109103890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] The UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] inspected Afghan refugee camps in Birjand and Qa'en yesterday afternoon and studied the progress of development programs and their needs.

After this visit he said: Despite all its problems, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made efforts in the health and educational fields for the Afghan refugees. He added: It has been proven to me that if it were not for the hospitality, patience, and generosity of the Iranian people, it would not have been possible to grant refuge to so many Afghan refugees. He also stated: We are ready to assist the Iranian Government more than before in its services to the Afghan refugees.

There are abouut 200,000 Afghan refugees in seven camps in Qa'en and Birjand.

Praises Hospitality

LD0209025790 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 1, IRNA—Visitng United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Thorvald Stoltenberg met Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Abdollah Nuri. He thanked the Iranian Government for having given shelter to Afghan and other refugees and declared UNHCR's readiness for cooperation with Iran.

Stoltenberg said the Islamic Republic has a reputation for its humanitarian act of hosting refugees, and added UNHCR is ready to offer any help to Iran for facilitating the return home via Iranian soil of foreigners stranded in Kuwait. The Interior minister said Iran had opted to "share its bread with the dislodged people out of commitment to its religious beliefs," and pointed out that in hard times Iran had contributed a substantial budget to the wellbeing of refugees.

Iran presently hosts two million Afghan refugees plus half a million Iraqi Arabs in addition to the thousands of Iraqi Kurds fleeing persecution in their country.

Meets With Velayati 2 Sep

LD0209162790 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 2, IRNA—Iran's geo-political situation and its stability coupled with the sensitive circumstances in the region have made refugees flock to the Islamic Republic both from the eastern and western borders, the foreign minister told the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] chief today.

'Ali Akbar Velayati in his meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Thorvald Stoltenberg, called for necessary preparations from UNHCR in this regard. Regular cooperation has already begun with UNHCR, he said and thought there were still many grounds for expansion of cooperation.

Stoltenberg assured Velayati of UNHCR cooperation concerning the promotion of conditions of Afghan and other refugees in Iran. He also said that UNHCR was ready to help the various foreign nationals who are pouring into Iran from Kuwait via the Iraqi borders.

The Islamic Republic hosts more than two million Afghan refugees, and half a million Iraqi arabs in addition to thousands of Iraqi Kurds fleeing persecution in their country.

Speaks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0209184890 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 2, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today said the Islamic Republic will spare no efforts to meet the needs of those who have taken refuge in Iran on Islamic and humanitarian grounds. He told the visiting United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Thorvald Stoltenberg, Iran was ready to cooperate with international organizations regarding refugee affairs. "Even under the hard economic conditions of the past, we did our best to help the refugees, as a human and Islamic duty," said Rafsanjani.

"However," he added "international organizations have failed to discharge their duty in this regard, discriminating Iran from other countries (hosting refugees) and putting political considerations before their duties. This would reduce the degree of our trust in these bodies." Stoltenberg who arrived on August 31, briefed the president on the outcome of his meetings with Iranian officials and announced the UNHCR's readiness for

cooperation with the Islamic Republic. There are over two million Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic and over 500,000 Iraqis.

Cross-Border Visits Discussed With Azerbaijan

LD0309181190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] A political-economic delegation from the Republic of Soviet Azerbaijan arrived in Rasht today to begin talks with officials of Gilan province about cross-border visits by the two countries' nationals as well as other topics of interest between the two countries. The delegation includes representatives from the prime minister's office and minister of agriculture of Soviet Azerbaijan, commanders of the cities of (Lyrik), Lankaran, and Soviet Astara, as well as a number of senior frontier-guards.

It should be mentioned that, according to an agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union, the frontier inhabitants of the two countries can travel up to 45 km inside the two countries' territories and several border crossing points have been designated for this purpose.

Cuban Sugar Industry Minister Arrives in Tehran

To Discuss Cooperation

NC0309060390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Juan Herrera, Cuban sugar industry minister, arrived in Tehran last night at the head of an economic delegation, and was welcomed by Agriculture Minister Kalantari. During his five-day visit he will hold talks with Iranian officials, especially on Iranian-Cuban cooperation in the areas of agriculture, sale of sugar, purchase of oil, and the sugar cane industry.

Received by Velayati

LD0309184590 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 3, IRNA—Cuban Minister of Sugar Industry Juan Herrera Machado Met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today, and presented him a message from Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli.

Machado who arrived here last night, expressed hope that his stay would help expansion of mutual economic cooperation. Velyati said Iran views Machado's visit as a constructive step in bilateral ties, and hoped that it would bear fruits.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Stance on Aggression

LD0209112290 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 2 IRNA—A morning daily Sunday noted that the U.S. military expedition to the Persian Gulf region is in fact an aggression on Islamic lands and a threat against the wealth of the regional nations.

'ABRAR' in an editorial titled "Aggressive U.S. Cannot Condemn the Aggressor," stressed "Aggression is condemned so is the one who has comitted an act of aggression against Kuwait." Although Iraq's military occupation of Kuwait has further intensified tension in the region, it is a further proof to Iran's repeated warning that aggression must be eradicated through condemnation of the aggressor.

Such a warning, the daily noted, had been silenced by a decade-long vicious propaganda of both the East and the West who had sided with the aggressor. However, it added, now the aggressor West is dispatching troops to the Persian Gulf region under the pretext of repelling aggression and the East through its diplomacy of "playing with words," lashes out at aggression.

"America, pioneer of aggression against the free world, is talking about the trial of the aggressor," the article said, arguing why the U.S. itself is not put on trial for its aggressions against Genada and Panama? The daily further added that the U.S. itself is an aggressor and therefore, cannot condemn aggression. "The past ten-year history of the region has produced this valuable experience to Muslim nations in this part of the world," it concluded.

Paper Views U.S. Concept of 'Lawful Aggression'

LD0209115390 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 2, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said in its editorial on Sunday that if Iraqi officials publish the secret documents on Iraq-Iran and the role of the West, a severe blow will be dealt on the West and the culprits will be introduced to the world and Muslims in particular.

The editorial was referring to a recent statement by the former French foreign minister Claude Cheysson who unveiled that there was an agreement among permanent members of the Security Council to take the side of Iraq in their decision-makings on Iraq-Iran war. Such disclosures bring further disgrace to the West and all the so-called advocates of humanity, human rights, justice and law, it said.

The editorial referred to the recent complaints by regional leaders and Arabic media of how ungrateful Baghdad has been towards those who provided him with unconditional support and financed its war. Although the long lists of aids and assistance being printed nowadays in the Arab media aim at reaffirming Baghdad's ungratefulness, in itself it is a self-betrayal, it added.

It criticized the Security Council for having adopted a policy of double standard towards the Iraqi aggression on Iran and its invasion of Kuwait. This reveals the magnitude of the crimes committed by those who enjoy

veto rights and carry out their treacheries and crimes under the pretext of "law and international standards," it added.

Confessions of Cheysson, statements of Saddam and Arab rulers are the most valid historic documents proving Iran's rightfulness during the past ten years and especially the 1980-88 war, stressed the daily. Referring to the U.S. plan to try Saddam on charges of "unlawful aggression," deployment of chemical weapons and so on, the daily said that the U.S. was following up certain goals and had no good-will.

As for the "unlawful aggression" the paper said that it means that from Washington's point of view there exists a "lawful aggression" which applies to aggression of the category of U.S. aggression" on Granada and Panama or Iraqi aggression on Iran. This category of aggression enjoys the all-out support of all enemies of humanity in West and East.

Paper Examines Kuwait Situation

LD0109211390 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 1, IRNA—A Persian daily today pondered about the fate of tiny Kuwait, which, occupied by 'big brother' Iraq since August 2, has been further complicated by the intrusion of outside forces in the Persian Gulf.

"The passing of a few weeks since the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq has hardly cleared the clouds which have obscured the scene since the start of the development," said KAYHAN [name as received].

"Much worse", it added, "the original bone of contention, that is the 'occupation' is now being pushed aside and is falling into oblivion as a result of seemingly overpowering developments such as the presence in the region of U.S. troops and of its allies, and the issue of hostages in Iraq and Kuwait, while the Iraqis are determinedly continuing with the 'annexation process' leaving no chance in their efforts for de-Kuwaitizing Kuwait."

The daily asked: "What has the future in stock for Kuwait? Will the small Kuwait which has fallen victim to her own wealth eventually find back her 'independence'? or will she be forced to live a life of not-so-much peaceful co-existence within the dictates of the occupying forces?"

The question is more easily asked than answered, KAYHAN said, especially in light of the "rapidly changing circumstances." It said that an analysis of the various alternatives open for liberating Kuwait, and of the chances of success of each of these alternatives would perhaps offer some ground for guesswork in connection with future developments.

"By way of reminder, however, let us recall that the question being politics, 'everything' is 'possible' while at the other extreme nothing is certain to happen or not to happen, and that it would be erroneous to analyze the circumstantial crisis in the region without due attention to Saddam Husayn's highly peculiar psyche and his personality traits," it said.

KAYHAN went on to analyze the possible alternatives "pressupposing that all attempts at political solution of the problem have failed and that the secret diplomacy, too, has fallen short of bringing results:

"1. Local resistance: Kuwait, where foreigners outnumber citizens, is highly vulnerable due to its limited population as well as other social and political reasons which aggravated during the Iraqi war against the Islamic Republic, irrespective of instances of sporadic and isolated reports of resistance which fall short of mobilizing local forces against the bulk of the heavily armed Iraqi forces.

"Kuwait is too vulnerable because of the liberal support for Iraq by the ruling family [passage indistinct).

"2. Arab populace: Although the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq entailed condemnation by Arabs and Muslims for various political and economic reasons the oppresed populace in the Arab lands will not go any further than they have condemned Baghdad. One Arab source was recently quoted as saying 'Should we let our children kill themselves because of the bank accounts of extravagant sheykhs.'

"3. Arab regimes: The current crisis in the Persian Gulf has revealed the vulnerability of the Arabs as well as the meaninglessness of political and military treaties between them.

"4. Economic sanctions: If in the long run the trump card of 'hostages' should not successfully shatter the sanctions, and if the promises of an excellent future should not make Iraqis tolerate the present hardships then undoubtedly the brutal tactics peculiar to Saddam Husayn will subdue the public in Iraq... [ellipsis as received]

"Perhaps, the islands [of] Bubiyan and Warbah which comprise one-fourth of the territory of Kuwait will be the price to be paid by ousted sheyks of Kuwait to Iraq... [ellipses as received]

"5. Military confrontation: All signs indicate that the Americans are in the region not to fight but to stay on. The deadlock in the Arab Middle East due to the Muslim uprising in occupied Palestine, the Islamic upsurge in Muslim countries, the vacuum resulting from the collapse of the communist camp and the set-back of the Soviets as well as Washington's concern about a gradually rising rival that is a unified Germany and a unified Europe in 1992, may justify the reason why the U.S. should seek presence in the Persian Gulf.

"The element of time, too, seems to have become a major preoccupation of the Americans. At the outset the element served the purpose of Washington for equipping and sending troops but for the moment it seems time is working for the other side because:

—The element of time serves the Iraqis in their psychological and propaganda war against the Americans.
—In the long run and in a no-war-no-peace situation the public in the United States will lose their interest and concern and will protest the U.S. presence in the region.
—The geographical and climatic conditions in the region works against the Americans which is the reason why former secretary of state Henry Kissinger has observed that the passing of time would not serve the U.S. interests... [ellipsis as received]

"6. The ouster of the political system in Baghdad and Saddam Husayn: The only alternative which may ensure Kuwait the return of her independence is the ouster of the head of the Iraqi Government or a civil or military coup d'etat in that country.

"Until a few weeks ago and even for sometime after the occupation of Kuwait, the Americans would not harbor this alternative. President George Bush said a few weeks ago that he did not think that the only remaining alternative would be to force Saddam out of Kuwait by military force, and that the U.S. Administration (until that time) did not advocate the idea of the ouster of Saddam.

"Haven't the circumstances changed?

"Even though the Americans may now be leaning toward this last alternative, will the political structure in Iraq readily allow the implementation of that scheme?

"The performance of the Ba'thists over the past two decades as well as the summary disposing off of adversaries and even ranking political personalities by Saddam Husayn is evidence that the alternative of implementing a coup d'etat in Iraq would not be as easy to try as it seems at first sight.

"To sum up, with respect to the six alternatives above, it is obvious that some of them are difficult to implement if not entirely impossible. The remaining alternatives also would not be alternatives without side effects.

"At any rate and in the event of the inapplicability of each of the above alternatives, would the occupation of Kuwait not gradually dwindle into just another old issue in the Middle East?

"The future will cast light on the fate of Kuwait in light of the current developments."

Commentary Examines Effect of Sanctions on Iraq

NC0209111090 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
14 Aug 90 p 8

["Political Commentary": "The Effective Sanctions on Iraq; the Impact of a Military Confrontation in the Region"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It is clear that the Iraqi army finds itself tied up at the Saudi border, and the United States also continues to refrain from a unilateral military action. The present stalemate will benefit the United States only through a complete blockade of all import-export routes to Iraq. This will, in turn, gradually increase the economic pressures on Iraq; and then the time will come for a "political compromise." The seige against Iraq will be effective only when Turkey, Syria, Jordan, [Saudi] Arabia, and Iran also participate in it.

The role that Iran and Saudi Arabia can play in implementing the economic sanctions against Iraq is very clear. By increasing their production of export oil, these two countries can increase their economic pressures on Iraq and work toward their own and the international oil market's benefit. Turkey's stand is also clear to a certain extent. By closing down Iraq's oil pipelines and blocking all routes for the transit of goods, Turkey too has participated in the sanctions. Moreover, Turkey has even placed its armed forces on alert. However, despite all these, it seems that the stands of Jordan and Syria are still unclear. Jordan may become a platform for re-exports to Iraq, and the Syrians are also taking their regional interests into consideration.

With the passage of time and with the impact that the international sanctions—guaranteed by the Western forces and Iraq's neighbors—will have on Iraqi economy, the prospect of a military confrontation appears. At this stage, it is not clear which neighbor will be Iraq's target. But the most logical move would be to attack the "weakest link" in this chain, and apparently the grounds for a confrontation have been paved. The territorial differences between Iraq and Kuwait, and especially Turkey's claims over the Kirkuk oil reserves and the conflict over border waters on the one hand and the traditional Syrian-Iraqi political row on the other add to these grounds. Apparently the armies in Iraq's neighborhood have also prepared themselves for the fulfillment of the political and territorial claims of their leaders, and they are only waiting for the outbreak of an extensive conflict between the American and Iraqi forces.

The view that with the passage of time the threat of a military confrontation in the area will subside does not seem to hold water. There is an old proverb which says: A weapon placed on the wall during the first act of a play will surely be used in the second act.

Commentary Views Impact of Crisis on Oil Prices

NC0209143590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
12 Aug 90 p 18

[Political commentary by Heshmatollah Razavi: "The Persian Gulf Crisis and the Future of the International Oil Market"]

[Text] More than 10 years after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the profound effects this had on the international oil market, the Persian Gulf is again witnessing a situation whereby the international oil market is linked to political events, thus making the future dependent, to a great extent, on the course these political developments take.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution and the consequent fears of an oil shortage, prices spiraled to $40 per barrel. However, the price of oil slumped to $36 in 1980, to $34 in 1981, and to $29 in 1983. By 1985, it had plummeted to $28 per barrel. However, even though the price of oil followed a downward trend between 1980 and 1985, the prices of this period still represented a considerable increase over the price of $12.70 per barrel which existed before the victory of the revolution, and boosted the income of the oil-exporting countries.

The reason for giving all these details is to assess whether the oil market will experience similar conditions in the aftermath of the Kuwaiti crisis. If it were possible to predict all future political and military events, it would be easier to answer this question. Since the situation is still evolving, opinions can vary widely and under such circumstances, it is not possible to present a comprehensive detailed assessment.

Nevertheless, it is possible to predict that the recent political upheaveals in the region will have fewer repercussons on the international oil market (as long as the crisis does not spread to the other countries of the region) than the Islamic revolution 10 years ago for the following reasons:

1. When the oil industry employees went on strike in Iran and oil exports ground to a halt, approximately 6 million barrels of oil per day were withdrawn from the oil market; the embargo on oil from Iraq and Kuwait accounts for an estimated decrease of 4.5 million barrels of oil per day.

2. There is a better possibility of filling the void resulting from the absence of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil on the international market than there was at the time of the victory of the Islamic revolution. In 1979, OPEC's total production was 31 million barrels of oil per day and the international oil market was more dependent on OPEC; total OPEC production is currently only 22.5 million barrels per day and the dependence on OPEC countries has greatly been reduced.

Oil production by non-OPEC countries has risen from 22 million barrels per day in 1979 to 28 million barrels per day.

3. The drop in supply in 1979 was not the only factor that lead to the increase in oil prices. There was a concomitant increase in demand which contributed equally. A fear of dwindling oil stocks resulting from a decline in oil supplies prompted the oil-consuming countries to step up their oil purchases to supplement their strategic reserves. As a result, the efforts of Saudi Arabia and other oil producers to contain the spiraling of oil prices did not prove effective in the short term.

However, at present, the strategic U.S. reserves amount to 600 million barrels. The stocks of other oil-consuming industrial countries are also considerable. This, in itself, will help to counteract any effects of oil shortages in the short term and prevent the soaring of oil prices.

4. Most OPEC members have shown an inclination to raise their production and in the event that reports that Saudi Arabia has raised production to 2 million barrels per day are confirmed, we can anticipate that the oil market will not be subjected to massive fluctuations. In addition, most of the other OPEC members have also indicated their desire to increase production to compensate for shortages resulting from the economic embargo against oil from Iraq and Kuwait.

As was mentioned earlier, all the above observations are made on the assumption that the present crisis does not enter a new dimension and a military confrontation in the region does not materialize. In any case, regardless of whether the crisis remains at its present level and the international community abides by the Security Council's decision on economic sanctions against Iraq or whether Iraq and the Western countries become embroiled in a conflict, favorable conditions have been created which Iran can capitalize upon economically.

If it is agreed that the crisis should be resolved on the basis of the UN Security Council decision, this will automatically mean that the crisis will continue over a relatively prolonged period of time. In such circumstances and under conditions of an oil shortage, first of all, oil prices will never plunge lower than $20 per barrel, and this in itself will result in a bolstering of Iran's income. Secondly, Iraq's loss of income will give Iran the opportunity to tilt the economic balance in its favor.

During the course of the revolution when Iran's oil income fell, Iraq strengthened its military structure by a similar policy. Statistics indicate that between 1978 and 1980, Iraq boosted its oil income from $9.6 billion to 26.5 billion; at the same time Iran's oil income dropped from $20.9 billion to $11.6 billion.

If for some reason, however, a military confrontation does materialize, we can expect oil prices to register an unprecedented rise on the international oil market. Of course, under such circumstances the increase will not be the result of fluctuations in supply or demand, but of political and military developments which will determine oil prices in the short term.

In the event of a military imbroglio, it is possible that the oil facilities of Iraq and the regional shaykhdoms, especially Saudi Arabia which is the greatest oil exporter of the world, will be damaged, and this in itself will certainly result in an upsurge in oil prices in the medium term.

Editorial Accuses Arab Leaders of 'Pettiness'

LD0209092190 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 2, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said in its editorial Sunday that pettiness was the only common characteristics among most Arab leaders. "They are indifferent to subservience and treachery is taken for granted," said

the daily adding "from their point of view deceit, hypocracy and betrayal is no vice."

The editorial referred to a statement by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat during a visit to Kuwait when the Iraq-Iran war was on. He had said, "the Palestinians would fight those who invade Kuwait...Kuwait being part of the Arab world would be defended by his warriers." Ironically Iraqi invaded Kuwait, but 'Arafat and the PLO commandos were not in Kuwait to help Al-Sabah. On the contrary according to some Arab diplomats in the Persian Gulf "Much of Iraq's advance intelligence information was supplied by PLO supporters in Kuwait," said the daily.

It further criticized Kuwaiti armed forces of whom Sheikh Jabir was so proud and asked how long did they resist to defend their home country at the time of the Iraqi invasion. On the reaction of the Arab League and their last week two-day session in Cairo, it said, "again the Arab leaders demonstrated a clear case of differences," adding that about half the member states did not send representatives to its ministerial meeting.

Editorial Views Algiers Agreement, Gulf Situation

NC0209130390 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
16 Aug 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial by Mohammad Kazem Anbarluyi: "Divine Victory"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Yesterday morning the world's news agencies reported that:

1. Saddam has officially accepted the 1975 Algiers agreement;

2. Effective tomorrow Iraq will begin its withdrawal from the Iranian borders;

3. On the same day the arrival of Iranian prisoners of war [POW's] from the ground borders will begin.

The acceptance of the 1975 Algiers agreement is a definite and divine victory for Iran, and the world is witnessing the reality that a great and divine nation has, with its resistance and steadfastness and by relying on divine help, been able to put the aggressor in his place and not to permit it to achieve any of its objectives. And this means that the pure blood shed by the martyrs of Iran's Karbala have yielded fruit. [passage omitted]

In a decisive stand, the president sent a letter to Saddam on 8 August 1990 in which he stressed on the need to accept the 1975 Algiers agreement.

Neither the occupation of Iran nor the superpowers' support for Saddam in not accepting and implementing the peace resolution were able to hinder Iran from its just stand; and finally, after 10 years, the Iraqi president gave in to Iran's demands and stated this officially in his letter.

Undoubtedly during the few months since the exchange of the first letter between Iran and Iraq, the government of Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani has engaged in the most successful diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and now our people are seeing the successful fruits of these extensive efforts—efforts which were carried out on the basis of the directives by the esteemed leader of the revolution and of programs by the Supreme National Security Council.

The emphasis on the principles and stands of the system definitely make these results even more fruitful. These principles and stands are as follows:

1.Aggression in any form is condemned and Iraq is condemned because of its aggression against and the occupation of Kuwait. Iraq should withdraw from Kuwaiti territory. Iran does not accept any change in the region's political geography, and international borders should be respected.

2.We condemn the presence of the arrogant and American navy and forces in the region, and believe that the crisis can be solved through a collective regional effort.

3.Persian Gulf security could be ensured by regional countries and the current conflict should not become more complicated on the pretext that security should be ensured by foreign forces.

These are the points on which the will of God almighty are based. May those outside our borders who are aiming their gun at the heart of "Islam" and the "Koran" become the target of their own bullets. God willing.

Commentary Considers Iran-Iraq Peace on West

NC0209174290 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
18 Aug 90 pp 1, 12

[Political commentary by Mohammad Sarafraz: "Peace Between Iran and Iraq and the West's Difficult Path"]

[Text] With the peace between Iran and Iraq, the West and the United States are faced with choosing among three options, all of which which will have very definite repercussions.

The first option is for the United States and the West to remain indifferent. In this case, the show of muscle flexing will be directed more toward Iraq. According to the West's now-forgotten policy, Iran and Iraq should have destroyed one another's forces and Iraq should have been able to rein in the rising tide of the Islamic revolution.

Peace between the two countries provides Iraq with the opportunity to tackle the West with a higher morale and capability. According to an Iraqi newspaper, 30 divisions (350,000 soldiers) which had been deployed near the Iranian border will now be deployed near the Saudi and Turkish borders.

In such circumstances, when the regional equilibrium has been shattered, the United States has itself become the cause of a redeployment of the Iraqi troops. In the event of an expensive war with massive losses, no one can predict what form a "new balance of forces" will take.

Iraq hopes to take advantage of the hundreds of thousands of foreigners trapped in Iraq and Kuwait, especially the thousands of Americans and Britons. This issue has considerably limited the West's ability to launch an all-out war. Another factor restricting action by the West is the possibility of Iraq's resorting to the use of chemical weapons in the hot climate in the region, which is a major deterrent. A third factor is the risk that oil wells in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries in the Persian Gulf will be destroyed.

In such a situation, the United States requires some time to dispatch 1,000 fighter planes and 250,000 Armed Forces personnel to the region, so that it can embark on the experiment of attempting to destroy Iraq's air force and prevent an advance by Iraqi ground forces.

The West's silence over the peace between Iran and Iraq has made the possibility of a complete maritime siege of Iraq more difficult to achieve. Jordan is playing a decisive role in this adventure, but it is possible that in the near future, King Husayn may be forced to choose between Iraq and the United States.

What makes things difficult for King Husayn of Jordan is that half of his country's people are Palestinians and are opposed to the U.S. stance. Similarly, the Muslim Brotherhood, which holds one-third of the seats in Jordan's parliament, is also opposed to U.S. policy. Until now, the largest number of demonstrations against the United States have been staged in Jordan, Israel, and Saudi Arabia.

If, under pressure from Washington, King Husayn closes the port of al-'Aqabah to Iraq-bound goods, there is the possibility of a national uprising and a move by Iraq toward the port of al-'Aqabah. In this case, it is natural that the trend of opposition to the United States will grow in the public opinion of the regional nations.

The second option is for Westerners to act in favor of Iraq; however, the possibility of this happening is decreasing by the minute. Obviously, it would not be feasible to provide concessions to Iraq while it is still occupying Kuwait, as this would be an open acknowledgement of the West's weakness before the Ba'thist regime.

The evolution of the crisis in the opposite direction as well as the U.S. forces' deployment and the reciprocal psychological warfare between Baghdad and Washington betray signs of the onset of a war, not of negotiations and compromise.

The third option would be to take Iran's side. This is the clearest option that remains for the West. The objective of this action would be to prevent cooperation between Iran and Iraq or to maintain a balance of the forces in the region through Iran. At present, both the West and its Arab supporters on the one hand and Iraq on the other are harboring thoughts of siding with Iran. In fact, Saddam was forced to accept Iran's conditions for peace. However, he expects that, in the face of international pressure, Iran will not enter the arena against Iraq.

There was a time when Iraq was assisted by all the military and financial powers of the world in the hope that it would gain supremacy over Iran, but it was not successful. Now it wishes to go to war against the same powers with Iran's assistance. It appears that if the Islamic Republic of Iran assumes the role of a "third party" it will be more to its benefit.

While Iraq's annexation of Kuwait is totally unacceptable, the U.S. leadership is not prepared to accept the toppling of the Ba'thist leadership.

In such circumstances, the United States will consider all the regional states indebted to it and will dictate their policy as well as insist on appointing the future government of Iraq!

In its haste, the White House has taken on a much larger role for itself than was approved by the Security Council. The Security Council voted for "economic sanctions" against Iraq, but the United States wants to launch a direct "maritime embargo" and, as Mr. Perez de Cuellar has stressed, that would not be approved by the United Nations. It is to the benefit of the region that the United Nations should take the lead in all measures against the Iraqi aggression, not the United States.

New Governorate Formally Begins Functioning

LD3108224290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] The Governorate of Borkhar-va-Meymeh, with its capital Shahin Shahr, formally started functioning today in the course of a ceremony attended by Interior Minister Nuri. The new governorate has been created on the basis of the new plan on geographical division of the country approved by the cabinet.

*Two Ships Detained by Iraq in Port Al-Shuwaykh

90AS0349E London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] Shipping sources in the Persian Gulf announced that two Iranian ships, "the Hormoz" and "the Iran Safir", which were docked at Port al-Shuwaykh, the principal port at Kuwait City, were detained along with their occupants. No information on the fate of the workers on the two Iranian ships has been announced. The Islamic Republic regime is not publishing reports on the detaining of "the Hormoz" and "the Safir" [as published], and no measures to free them have yet been taken by the regime.

*NIOC Takes Charge of Refinery Construction

90AS0349G London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] The second phase of reconstruction of the Abadan refinery will be carried out by Iranian engineers and technicians. Foreign contractors will participate only in the procurement of technical supplies, tools, and equipment.

The weekly economic journal MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST [MEED] of London reports that the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] is now preparing to turn over the contract to complete the Abadan refinery to Iranian contracting companies and engineers.

In its report, the weekly journal says: Most of the 628,000 barrel Abadan refinery was destroyed during the eight years of war between the Islamic Republic and Iraq, and early last year the National Iranian Oil Company undertook to rebuild it. The first phase of reconstruction of this refinery brought it back to one-fifth of its original capacity. The second phase of reconstruction is to add 250,000 barrels per day to the refinery's capacity; this refinery will then have the capacity to refine 380,000 barrels per day.

MEED adds: It is not yet clear if the National Iranian Oil Company itself will officially rebuild the Abadan refinery, or if the contract to do this project will be turned over to foreign companies.

Continuing its report, the publication noted that if foreign companies carry out the second phase of the reconstruction of the Abadan refinery, the Islamic Republic will have to spend about one billion dollars in foreign exchange, but if the project is given to Iranian engineers, experts, and technicians, the foreign exchange costs will be reduced to $160 million.

In a recent press conference, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the Islamic Republic's petroleum minister, told OPEC's press representative that the reconstruction of the Abadan oil refinery would cost about $60 million.

The Islamic Republic's minister of oil also announced that the Islamic regime has decided to turn over the reconstruction of the Abadan refinery to the National Iranian Oil Company. He told reporters that the government has given the National Iranian Oil Company the foreign exchange needed to carry out the project.

Concerning the possibility that the Islamic Republic might purchase a second-hand refinery, MEED writes: Last February the National Iranian Oil Company announced that the necessary studies are being done to buy a second-hand oil refinery and use its technical parts and equipment to complete the Abadan refinery.

The publication adds: Apparently the first proposal to sell a second-hand refinery was submitted to the National Iranian Oil Company by the German company [Warmekalte Schalschutz].

*Five Million Court Cases Left in Suspension

90AS0349D London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Shushtari, the Islamic Republic's minister of justice, announced last week that about five million cases remain unresolved in the courts, and it will take at least until 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] to hear them all.

The nation's judiciary, more than any of its other institutions, has been invaded by the Islamic Republic regime's preachers, and its foundation has crumbled. The increase in crime, a direct result of the current chaotic social conditions, has also brought the disorderly judiciary up against more problems than before.

Although Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judicial power, hopes to put the current state of affairs in order by creating "general courts," it is said that since the "general courts" do not have the proper foundation to implement justice, the formation of such courts will increase the problems of the judiciary even more.

*Income From Taxes Reportedly Increases

90AS0349H London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] In the first four months of the current year (Farvardin, Ordibehesht, Khordad, and Tir [21 March-22 July 1990]) the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance has increased revenues from taxes and foreign sales of oil and gas about 62 percent over the same period last year. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the Islamic Republic regime's minister of economic affairs and finance, recently announced while attending a meeting of the Council of Ministers that in the first four months of the current year his ministry has taken in 1,826 rials from tax revenues and the sale of oil and gas. This official told other ministers taking part in the meeting of the Council of Ministers that the Islamic Republic's other income during this period was more than 624 billion rials, and in this way the government's revenues increased about 391 percent over the first four months of 1368 [21 March-22 July 1989]. In his report, the official said: The government's payments in the first four months of the current year increased 19 percent under current credits, and under development credits they increased 422.2 billion rials, or 87 percent, over last year.

*Paykan Assemby Resumes With Foreign Assistance

90AS0349I London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] "With the conclusion of a contract with several foreign companies and the production of parts by contractors, the production of Paykans by the Iran Khodrow Company will resume. With this renewed production, the company's commitments to deliver Paykans to applicants dating back to 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] will be carried out."

The above point was conveyed to media representatives recently by Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian, the Islamic Republic's minister of heavy industries. Having journeyed to the Province of Khuzestan to view conditions there, he promised that the government would establish security in Khuzestan and provide industrialists there with foreign exchange resources.

In his press conference, the official said: "With the exception of the Paykan, the delivery of other automobiles to

applicants has begun, and with increases in production, more automobiles will be delivered to applicants."

The minister of industries for Tehran's Islamic regime discussed industrial activities in Khuzestan Province. He announced that with the completion of the project to expand the Ahvaz Pipe and Beam Factory, this factory's production capacity will increase from 100,000 tons to 600,000 tons. Nezhad-Hoseynian disclosed that recently the Ministry of Industries signed a 250-million-mark contract with a foreign company to prepare for implementation of the project to increase production of the Ahvaz Pipe and Beam Factory. He announced that this project would be completed in three years.

*Three Cities Created Outside Mashhad

90AS0349J London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] In pursuit of the policy of not centralizing the population in Tehran and dealing with the overwhelming problem of the lack of housing in the capital and other municipalities, the Islamic Republic plans to build three cities with a capacity of more than one million, to include employment resources, in the Mashhad area. The regime's minister of housing and urban development recently went to Mashhad to meet with the executive officials of Khorasan Province. He told those attending the meeting that unless a solution is found for the housing problem, which is the result of the distribution of society with its unbridled growth and the emigration to the major cities, this will end up being a problem that cannot be solved. During his talk, the official announced that there are now two thousand billion [as published] tomans in circulation nationally in the housing construction and land sector.

Reports obtained from Tehran and the nation's other major municipalities indicate that the unsolvable problem of the housing shortage and enormous increases in the prices of housing is getting worse every day, and the regime's officials have not had the slightest success solving this great social problem. One report from Tehran states that a group of the regime's leaders, through their profiteering agents, purchased land and shacks in the area of Tehran and other municipalities, and with their extensive resources to obtain construction materials at government prices, built housing units and are selling them to the people at astronomical prices. In this report it states that during the last year the price of housing units has increased as much as three times over, and the problems of homelessness, expensive homes, and high rents have made the burden of anxiety for the people greater than ever before.

*Young King Pahlavi Interviewed on His Role

90AS0349B London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] Reza Pahlavi, the king of Iran, gave an interview to the newspaper AL-DUWALIYAH printed in Paris, in which he again confirmed his role as an agent for the creation of national solidarity among the nationalist and liberation groups.

In this interview, Reza Pahlavi said that Iran's national condition is in a state of decline, and its prospects are quite dark and worrisome. The government cannot rebuild the country, it cannot even extract and export oil at the level of its OPEC quota. Unemployment in the nation's active work force is at 40 percent, and the split between the regime's various factions widens every day.

The king of Iran said: The exile of the nation's educated and specialist class, due to the inhumane conditions prevailing in Iran, is additional testimony to the failure of the policies of the Islamic Republic.

Reza Pahlavi was asked if the beginning of economic relations between the nations of the West and the Islamic Republic regime is an indication of Western support for the regime. He answered:

"The Western industrialized nations, who adhere to a free economy, separate political affairs from economic and commercial affairs, except in special cases where a government's general political policies must be implemented. Therefore, if it is observed that economic and commercial relations between the Western World and the Islamic Republic regime have been established, this is absolutely no indication that the Islamic Republic's international policies are also supported by the Western governments."

Concerning the peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq, Reza Pahlavi stressed the necessity of implementing the 1975 Algiers Treaty and United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, and he expressed concern that the regime's propaganda use of such issues to cover up the economic and social problems it has caused might endanger the peace talks.

The king of Iran was asked if the people of Iran support a monarchy or not. He answered:

"I live to help the Iranian nation take the country back from a handful of foreigners, and to establish a national and populist government." He added:

"A constitutional monarchy not only guarantees national unity, it is the only government under whose banner individual and social freedom are guaranteed." He said: "There is no doubt that a constitutional monarchy is supported by many patriots, and recent demonstrations in Tehran and several other municipalities were the result of crusading and heroic sacrifice by this very group. My role, using the special position of the culture of monarchy in Iran, is to create solidarity between the nationalist and liberation forces. The goal is to create conditions where the Iranian people can freely determine their nation's destiny at the ballot boxes. Under these conditions my desires are the desires of the people of Iran."

*Heavy Rains Complicate Earthquake Relief

90AS0349F London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] Heavy rainfall in the earthquake-stricken areas and water seepage into tents have caused intolerable problems for earthquake victims. The nation's newspapers report that lowered temperatures and continuous rains have caused colds in children and the elderly. The earthquake victims have crowded into aid distribution centers to obtain heating appliances, but have not been able to obtain the equipment needed.

Rainfall in Rudbar, Manjil, and areas in the vicinity of these two municipalities has been more severe than elsewhere. The regime has yet to take the smallest step to rebuild the earthquake-stricken dams, villages, and even major cities. A reliable report from the earthquake-stricken areas states that 80 percent of the tents the regime has given to the earthquake victims, all built inside the country, are thin and unable to stand up to the rain and humidity, and they are difficult to put up. According to this report, most of the tents sent from abroad were sold on the Tehran market for 250,000 tomans each.

This report, sent to KEYHAN from the earthquake-stricken areas in the north, states that sacks of cement sent from abroad are being sold in shops in the northern cities in the original sacks and markings. In the cities of Rudbar, Manjil, Rostamabad, Khalilabad, and Gonjeh, the people have erected tents in the streets. Many families obtain their livelihood by standing along the roads going north and asking travelers headed north for money.

In Rudbar, when Rafsanjani aide Habibi went to the area for the 40th day funerary observances, no one in Rudbar went to meet him. After getting out of his helicopter in an area where a number of revolutionary guards and officials sent by the government had gathered, Habibi spoke to them, rather than the people, and then got back in the helicopter and left Rudbar.

The same report states that the day the governor of Rudbar announced in a speech the government's decision to pay 20,000 tomans to each earthquake-stricken family to build a three-by-four room, a representative of the people told the governor of Rudbar: If this is the help the government of the Islamic Republic is giving, you people leave us alone. We will go and get the 20,000 tomans from the same people who are now providing us with our daily livelihood.

According to this report, there is a preacher representing the regime in every village to calm the people and call upon them to be calm and endure the damage, but the people are fed up with the regime's impotence and its false promises that are never kept, and they show their anger and dissatisfaction to the preachers with sarcasm and insults. One way the people have of tormenting these preachers is by constantly reminding them of the former regime.

Pakistan

Interior Minister on Bhutto Corruption Cases

BK0109163690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The federal interior minister, Mr. Zahid Sarfraz, has said cases of corruption and misuse of power against the former prime minister minister, Benazir Bhutto Saheba, would be finalized in a few days. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said that the cases were at present in the process of finalization. The interior minister said that the government will institute only legally tenable cases in special courts. Various bank papers were being examined by the State Bank. These papers show how blatantly the national exchequer was plundered. He said the government was initiating the accountability because the nation continued to be successfully [as heard] subjected to loot and plunder. If the start is made today, we will also be facing it tomorrow. He said the plunder of national wealth must stop now. [passage omitted]

Mr. Zahid Sarfaraz said the recent cases of bomb blasts in Faisalabad and Rawalpindi and firing by unknown gunmen in Karachi indicated a corelationship and it seems as if a group is responsible for them. He said investigations so far carried out by different agencies indicate that frustrated elements of the People's Party, PSF and PPI [People's Students Federation and Pashtun-Punjab Ittehad] are responsible for these incidents. In reply to a question, Mr. Zahid Sarfraz said that those who are trying to create a sense of insecurity want to escape from accountability.

Case Filed Against Former Law Minister Gilani

BK0209035090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Sep 90 pp 1, 8

[By Shakil Shaikh]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 31—the caretaker government is reported to have registered a criminal case with the Islamabad Police against the former Law Minister, Syed Iftikhar Gilani.

He is charged with depriving the national exchequer of about Rs. [rupees] 28 lakh [100,000], an official source claimed.

The Senate Chairman, Wasim Sajjad, official sources said, has been informed about the registration of an "embazzelement case" against Senator Iftikhar Gilani.

Official sources claimed that Gilani withdrew this amount from the account opened with Rs 50 million by the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government to "strengthen the judiciary".

These sources alleged that the quarter concerned of the caretaker government, assigned to probe the alleged

financial bungling of the Bhutto's regime, has lodged a formal complaint (FIR) [First Information Report] with the Islamabad police.

However, the police have not so far made any move to arrest him as a member of Parliament can not be arrested 15 days before and after the session of Parliament. Senate is currently in session.

According to details, the Ministry of Law and Justice was provided an amount of Rs. 50 million for strengthening of the judiciary during 1989-90.

Reports revealed that at the end of the last fiscal year the allocation remained unspent.

Sources close to Ministry of Law say that despite a contrary advice by the Auditor General [AG] Iftikhar Gilani ordered: "The unspent amount of Rs. 2,798 million be diverted to a non-lapsable fund for legal aid under his personal control". These sources alleged that the A.G's advice to the ministry for obtaining the approval of the legislature for a non-lapsable account was "completely ignored".

Officials claimed that Gilani opened a non-lapsable account with the concurrence of the Finance Division and the sacked Prime Minister Bhutto.

These sources alleged that the amount was later transferred to Galini's personal ledger account on June 25, 1990.

The charged minister, sources said, withdrew Rs. 1 million on June 26, 1990. These sources claimed that two days later (June 28, 1990) an amount of Rs. 1,798 million was also withdrawn by the minister.

However, officials sources said, the additional secretary of the ministry secured receipt from the ministry.

Ministry's sources alleged that there is "no record" whatsoever either in the books or in the files of the ministry.

Charges Filed on Other Ministers

BK0409123490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Lahore, Sept 4 (AFP)—The government Tuesday petitioned special courts to disqualify from politics three top ministers of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet, court sources here said.

Charges have been brought against former Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Khwaja Tariq Rahim, former Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Jehangir Badar and former Minister for Manpower and Overseas Affairs Ghulam Mohammed Maneka.

These are the first cases the caretaker government of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has brought before the special tribunals set up after the ouster of the Bhutto government on August 6 on charges of corruption and abuse of power.

Exact charges, filed on behalf of the president, have not been disclosed. Observers believe the cases are related to alleged wrongdoings during Ms. Bhutto's 20-month rule. The courts will scrutinize the cases and summon the respondents if they deem it necessary.

Government Fails To Announce Case Against Bhutto

BK0409110490 Lahore THE NATION in English 4 Sep 90 p 1

[By Mariana Baabar]

[Text] Islamabad—The caretaker Government failed to announce cases against deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and former Federal Ministers on Monday as promised.

The Interior Minister in his Press conference only two days ago had stated that cases against Bhutto would be announced by Monday.

Government sources enjoying access to the caretaker Government told THE NATION that on Monday evening, the special team headed by Federal Minister Roedad Khan was giving final touches to four cases against as many Federal Ministers, and Mr Aziz Munshi, the Attorney-General, was vetting these cases.

While the officials say that the reason they are taking so much time is that they want no injustice to be done, it appears that the caretaker Government is not very confident about the evidence they have and is making sure that they do not lose any case. Because if the first few cases are lost by the caretaker Government, the whole exercise might have just the opposite effect.

Already the delay in filing these cases in the special courts is having adverse effects and people are speculating that 'evidence' is being cooked up and relevant persons are being pressurised to give false evidence. Sources add that experts from the legal, financial and security agencies are working round the clock to make the cases foolproof.

When questioned about the special courts to which these four cases would be sent our sources said, "most probably to the courts in Islamabad. The other cases will be sent to courts in areas where the crime was committed. [no closing quotation marks as published]

He also added that 11 cases are being vetted by legal experts against Bhutto, while the Interior Minister had claimed that four cases had already been prepared.

Islamabad Reports Arrest of Former Minister

BK0209154490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Quoting Pakistan People's Party [PPP] sources in Quetta, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN has reported that a former minister of state and the PPP party member, Ghulam Akbar Lasi, was arrested by

Balochistan police in Quetta last night. The reason for his arrest has not yet been given.

Kazmi Arrested, Implicates Bhutto's Husband

BK0209144890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1349 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Sept 2 (AFP)—A police spokesman in Karachi said that Fauzi Ali Kazmi, a friend of Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari, has "confessed" before a court that Mr. Zardari arranged bank loans for his duty-free shop project. The assistance was on verbal understanding that Mr. Zardari would acquire a 49 per cent share in the business when it picked up, police quoted Mr. Kazmi as saying. Mr. Kazmi was arrested recently in connection with misappropriation of funds and other financial improprieties.

The spokesman said Mr. Kazmi also confessed that Mr. Zardari arranged bank loans for his other friends on similar understandings. Six businessmen friends of Ms. Bhutto's husband have so far been detained. Mr. Zardari, whose name has been connected with arranging bank loans for the import of cars and truck chassis, has served a defamation notice on the government and denied any link with a Mustafa Memon involved in the transaction. Ms. Bhutto herself has described the cases as fabricated and an attempt to intimidate her into abdicating from the politics.

Bhutto's Husband Given Bail Before Arrest

BK0409111090 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Sept 3—The High Court of Sindh on Monday granted bail before arrest for a day to Asif Ali Zardari, husband of former Prime Minister. Mr. Zardari had moved an application for bail fearing arrest in the case of Fauzi Ali Kazmi arrested on a charge of fraud and obtaining bank loans amounting to Rs (rupees) 300 million.

The bench comprising the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Sajjad Ali Shah; accepted the bail for one day against two sureties of Rs 1 million each and issued notice to the Advocate-General of Sindh for Sept 4. Moving the bail application, Mr Mujeeb Pirzada, Advocate for Mr Zardari, submitted that Mr Kazmi who is at present under judicial custody, had been "tortured" and a statement "extracted" from him to "falsely" involve his client and malign Ms Benazir Bhutto and her party.

Mr. Zardari was present in the court. Ms Faryal Munawar Talpur and Mr Haroon Memon stood surety for him.

Mughal case: A division bench of the Sindh High Court on Monday issued a notice to the Advocate-General of Sindh to produce all the material and ascertain facts if these are any other cases against Ahmed Fahim Mughal, a former Private Secretary to Ms Bhutto.

The court issued the notice on an application moved on behalf of Mr Mughal by his advocate, Raja Qureshi. The complainant said in the application that every time he was released from a case, he was arrested in a fresh case. The hearing has been fixed for Tuesday. (APP) [Associated Press of Pakistan]

Bail Extended

BK0409135090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1317 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Karachi, Sept 4 (AFP)—The Sindh High Court Tuesday extended until Sunday the interim bail of Asif Ali Zardari, the husband of Pakistan's deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who has been linked to cases of financial wrong doing.

Mr. Zardari, granted his freedom overnight Monday on sureties of two million rupees (92,000 U.S. dollars), said after the court order Tuesday that the cases made against him were false. Mr. Zardari's name has come up in several cases, most notably one referring to a 300 million rupee loan (14 million U.S.) allegedly obtained by fraudulent means to open a chain of stores.

His counsel Mujeeb Pirzada told the court that the name of his client had not been mentioned in the first police report on the case. Mr. Pirzada said the main defendant, Fauzi Ali Kazmi, arrested shortly after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed Ms. Bhutto's government on August 6 on charges of corruption and abuse of power, had been tortured by police to extract a confession implicating Mr. Zardari. The court extended the interim bail to allow the advocate general time to gather more information about the cases allegedly involving Mr. Zardari.

Court Admits Two Petitions Against Dissolution

BK0309111390 Lahore THE NATION in English 3 Sep 90 p 1

[Excerpts] Lahore—Two identical writ petitions challenging the dissolution of Assemblies were admitted to regular hearing here on Sunday [2 September] by the Lahore High Court and notices were issued to the Federation of Pakistan and the Attorney-General, Pakistan, for September 5 for the hearing of the main petitions and matter concerning stay order.

The first petition admitted to regular hearing was filed by the former Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Khwaja Tariq Rahim and the other by one Zair Sikandar Khan, an Advocate from Lahore Cantt [cantonment]. The Division Bench comprising Mr Justice Ihsanul Haq Chaudhry and Mr Justice Malik Muhammad Qayyum, observed that "the points raised in this petition (by Khwaja Tariq Rahim) require further examination" and that "the written statement, if any, to be filed before that date with an advance copy to the learned counsel for the petitioner." The same order was passed on the other petition.

It was brought to the notice of learned Judges that another petition on the same subject matter was also pending in the Lahore High Court upon which, the Court ordered that 'that petition shall be listed for that date'.

Khwaja Tariq Rahim has prayed that Court to declare the President's Order dated August 6, 1990 without lawful authority and of no legal effect, as well as all steps and actions, taken by the Federation of Pakistan and caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi consequent upon the dissolution of the National Assembly including the appointment of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi as the caretaker Prime Minister. They also requested the Court to declare that NA [National Assembly] and Ms Benazir Bhutto as the Prime Minister of Pakistan and her government stood restored. Besides Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi be restrained from taking any important or major policy decision or steps taken except ordinary routine decisions and steps. Moreover, the impugned order dated August 6, 1990 be suspended and Mr Jatoi be restrained from working as caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan. [passage omitted]

The Court, after hearing the preliminary arguments of the counsel admitted the petition to regular hearing and issued notices to the Federation of Pakistan and the Attorney-General of Pakistan for September 5.

The other petitioner Zair Sikandar Khan prayed the Court to declare that the dissolution order passed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was unconstitutional, mala fide, illegal and without jurisdiction and it was an abuse of power and authority. He requested that the defunct National Assembly of Pakistan be held to be entitled to continue in existence including the cabinet headed by Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto. Moreover, the respondents are under legal and constitutional duty to hold mid-term general elections on October 24, 1990 and no excuse including the one of accountability of the members of the ousted government and the National Assembly, that they are legally competent to defer or postpone the date of this statutory duty be ordered to be specifically enforced by a specific direction.

The petitioner was represented by Chaudhri Hameeduddin Advocate.

Editorial Criticizes Government on Bhutto Case

BK0409113890 Lahore THE NATION in English 4 Sep 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Counter-productive disposition"]

[Text] So long as Ms Benazir Bhutto was in power, and her army of ministers and advisers behaved as they did, all and sundry were prone to believing the incredible stories of corruption and mismanagement. What the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] rank and file thought of their elected representatives was manifest in what they did to Khan Bahadar, the ex-Religious Affairs Minister in Peshawar and would have done to others in Lahore, had they not conveniently performed their disappearing act. Nevertheless, ever since the caretaker ministers have taken upon themselves the self-righteous task of purging the deadwood, and an officially-sponsored crusade against the PPP government's 'misdeeds' has begun, the people are generally inclined to give the erstwhile ruling party the benefit of the doubt. The job has so obviously been overdone that charges that it smacks of mala fides have been made. The Ministers do not even make the pretence of being impartial and the government-controlled media, true to its tradition, has become an instrument of propaganda warfare. Needless to say every government, 'interim' or 'regular' since the distinction appears to be rather obscure, has an in-built compulsion to indulge in a bit of PR at the expense of its political rivals. And the caretaker government, having been installed in the wake of vows to undertake accountability, has all the more reason to expose the bunglings of its predecessors. However, if the Ministers are seen as passing premeditated judgements it will only undermine the credibility of the process.

It is for the tribunals to go into the merits or demerits of the cases being brought against the members of Ms Bhutto's family, close friends and leaders of the former ruling party, but till such time the judicial process begins the onus of giving the exercise an appearance of fairplay is on the caretaker government. Nevertheless, if the explanation given on TV for the arrest of a former Minister is that electric fittings in his flour mill were unsafe for the workers, it is not likely to bring home the message of 'honourable intentions'. Notwithstanding the outcome of the proceedings of the special courts likely to begin any day, pronouncing verdicts even before the trials have begun will hardly make the case more credible in the public eye. The disposition is surely counter-productive.

Iraqis Warn of Retaliation Against Israel

BK0309154290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1516 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 3 (AFP)—Iraq will strike Israel if attacked by the United States, the leader of a visiting Iraqi delegation to Pakistan said here Monday. The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) quoted Sayyid Ahmad Zafar Gilani, a former ambassador to Pakistan, as saying that "in case of any aggression or use of nuclear weapons against Iraq, there are standing orders from President Saddam Husayn to all commanders to immediately attack Israel."

Mr. Gilani said the United States and its Western allies were in the Gulf to protect Israel. His delegation will also travel to India and Bangladesh to counter Western "propaganda" against Iraq, Mr. Gilani said, adding that Baghdad has sent similar delegations to a number of other countries. He said Iraq had enough food reserves and the morale of its people was very high.

The delegation includes Shaykh 'Abd-Al-Wahab Tayumah, prayer leader at the mosque of the late Moslem

saint 'Abd-Al-Qhadir Gilani. A large number of followers of the saint live in Pakistan.

Army Chief Addresses Troops Departing for Gulf

BK0109162590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] An army contingent consisting of 350 personnel of the infantry group left Islamabad for Saudi Arabia this afternoon. The group is a part of the infantry brigade which will join the Islamic brigade in Saudi Arabia to protect the holy places there.

Bidding farewell to the contingent, the army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, expressed the hope that the Pakistani troops will fulfill the task of defending the holy places of Islam with sincerity and devotion. He said that Pakistan has decided to send its troops to Saudi Arabia in keeping with provisions of the agreement concluded in 1982. It is a matter of honor for the Pakistani armed force that it has been assigned the task of protecting the holy places in Saudi Arabia, a task cherished by a Muslim military man in his life.

The army chief apprised the troops of the current situation in the Gulf and said that it has been the cardinal principle of our national policy not to allow any country to launch aggression against its smaller neighbors. He said that the Gulf situation may badly affect the unity of the Islamic fraternity. Therefore, it is the duty of all the Islamic countries to get united against the countries or forces which may impair the Islamic unity.

Lieutenant General Shamim Alam Khan, chief of general staff, was also among those who bade farewell to the first contingent of armed forces leaving for Saudi Arabia. Saudi Ambassador Yusuf al-Motabbakani, who was present on the occasion, said that the people of Saudi Arabia highly value the feelings of the people and friends in Pakistan.

600 More Leave 3 Sep

BK0309145790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Nearly 600 more Pakistani soldiers left for Saudi Arabia by two chartered planes today. It marked the completion of the first phase of dispatching Pakistani troops to Saudi Arabia to protect the two holy shrines and other sacred places. During the last three days, 2,000 soldiers were sent to Saudi Arabia. The remaining 3,000 Pakistani soldiers will be sent a few days later.

Cabinet Discusses Gulf Repatriation, Economy

BK0309164390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] The federal cabinet at its meeting in Islamabad today reviewed arrangements for evacuation of stranded Pakistanis in Kuwait and the economic situation arising from the international oil crisis. The meeting was presided over by the prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, presented a detailed report to the cabinet on his recent visit to Iran, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain, and Oman.

The cabinet was informed that 35,000 Pakistanis have been able to flee from Kuwait so far. Of them, 20,000 have since reached home by air and land routes. In a massive airlift, the PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] brought back 12,000 persons from Riyadh and Amman. About 8,000 more have also crossed into Pakistan by the Iran-Zahedan-(Daftan) route. The meeting was informed that arrangements were also made to bring back Pakistanis from Aqaba by sea. Pakistani embassies in Riyadh, Ankara and Amman have been directed to arrange PIA tickets for destitute Pakistanis the cost of which will be borne by the government.

The cabinet, while reviewing the economic situation, directed that in view of the growing pressure on budgetary resources as a result of the international oil crisis, strict economy measures in nondevelopmental expenditure should be enforced. All government organizations and agencies should also observe energy conservation measures. The cabinet decided that the Board of Investment shall henceforth cover activities pertaining only to private investment policies and promotion and approval of projects. The prime minister will be chairman of the Board of Industrial Management and the minister for industries its vice chairman.

The cabinet authorized a reappropriation of 100 million rupees for completion of ongoing highway project in Balochistan. It also discussed industrialization in rural areas and decided that rural areas entitled for fiscal and monetary concessions shall have their jurisdiction beyond some specified industrial estates and municipal or cantonment limits.

Effects of Gulf Crisis on Economy, Oil Viewed

BK0409041890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0213 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Karachi, Sept 4 (AFP)—Pakistan's economy has been hard hit by the Gulf crisis and is facing a worsening balance of payments deficit, analysts here say. The loss of hard currency remittances from Pakistani workers in Iraq and occupied Kuwait and the higher prices Islamabad has to pay for oil are expected to cause the balance of payments deficit, which last year hit 1.8 billion dollars, to further deteriorate.

Before it was invaded on August 2 by Iraq, Kuwait supplied Pakistan with about half of its imported oil at concessionary rates. Domestic oil prices were increased substantially in March to satisfy the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other aid donors demanding a reduction in Pakistan's budget deficit. But Petroleum

Minister Abdul Majeed Malik has said the government would for the time being not increase domestic prices of petroleum products.

The government was making arrangements for spot purchases of certain petroleum products on the international market to offset an expected shortage caused by the disruption of supplies from Kuwait. Officials said two Kuwaiti oil tankers had luckily left for Karachi only hours before the Iraqi invasion. One of them brought 27,000 tonnes of kerosene and the other carried 30,000 tonnes of diesel to Pakistan.

The Kuwaiti and Saudi embassies in Islamabad have assured Pakistani authorities that all possible efforts would be made to maintain oil supplies under the ongoing concessionary agreements. Pakistan consumes about 180,000 barrels of oil per day, while domestic production has nearly doubled in the past two years to 60,000 barrels per day.

Kuwait used to provide about 60,000 barrels per day of oil and petroleum products at concessionary rates of 15 dollars per barrel, worth a total of some 700 million dollars a year. Now that international prices have jumped to nearly 30 dollars per barrel, Pakistan will have to pay substantially more for its oil imports, further broadening the balance of payments deficit.

Pakistan's oil bill in the last fiscal year ending in June stood at 1.157 billion dollars. But since August 2, international oil prices have increased by 50 per cent to nearly 30 dollars a barrel. That increase is expected to cost Pakistan an additional 500 million dollars a year in scarce foreign exchange, putting the projected oil bill in the curren: fiscal year at around 1.7 billion dollars, say financial analysts.

Beside footing the cost of higher oil prices, Pakistan will also have to pay higher freight charges if alternate oil imports are made from such far off places as Singapore, Malaysia or Brunei. Apart from the increased oil bill, the national economy was facing the loss of an estimated 167 million dollars a year in hard currency remittances from Pakistanis in Kuwait and Iraq.

That figure amounts to 8.6 percent of the total remittances of 1.942 million dollars overseas Pakistanis sent home in the last fiscal year, analysts say. Also putting a strain on the economy would be the task of rehabilitating the returning expatriates from Kuwait, and possibly Iraq. There were some 92,000 Pakistanis working in Kuwait and about 50,000 in Iraq before the invasion. About 20,000 Pakistani overseas workers have so far returned home. According to unofficial estimates, unemployment in the country stands at 13 percent.

A cabinet meeting in Islamabad Monday reviewed the economic situation arising from the international oil crisis. In view of growing pressure on budget resources, the cabinet directed the administration to enforce strictly budget non-developmental expenditures, officials said. It also ordered energy conservation measures be implemented by all government organizations and agencies.

Deal Finalized for Rice Export to Saudi Arabia

BK0409025890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Pakistan and Saudi Arabian businessmen finalized a rice export contract—one of the largest thus far—in Karachi yesterday. Under the contract, Pakistan will supply 260,000 tons of Basmati rice worth over $120 million to Saudi Arabia.

Efforts To Evacuate Citizens From Gulf Continue

Over 1,200 Return 1 Sep

BK0109115290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Over 1,200 Pakistanis today returned home from Riyadh and Amman by four PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] special flights. They had reached Riyadh and Amman from Kuwait and Iraq.

Committee To Send Relief

BK0109164290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] The committee dealing with evacuation of Pakistanis from Kuwait has decided to airlift relief goods for them to Amman. At its meeting in Islamabad today, it decided to send 6,000 blankets to the Jordanian capital by the PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] which has undertaken to transport the relief goods free of cost beginning from tomorrow.

Relief Camp Opens in Iran

BK0209163690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Through four special flights of Pakistan International Airlines, 1,230 Pakistanis arrived in Karachi today from Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Eight hundred and sixty Pakistanis will be brought back home from Amman and Riyadh through four more special flights tomorrow.

Meanwhile, in view of the number of Pakistanis arriving via Pakistan-Iran border, Pakistan Railways has made arrangements to operate a special train on alternate days between (Koh-e Dastan) and Quetta. The first train carrying 600 passengers arrived in Quetta today.

Pakistani Embassy in Iran has set up a relief camp in the Iranian city Bazargan for the Pakistanis returning home from Kuwait and Iraq. Referring to the facilities provided to the Pakistanis returning home, Pakistani Ambassador in Tehran Shamshad Ahmad said that they have pitched about 100 tents, where basic necessities like water and food have been provided. He said with the cooperation of the Iranian Government, a dispensary

has also been established. The Pakistanis returning home have also been provided with traveling allowance from Bazargan to Pakistan.

Khan Welcomes Turkey's Help With Gulf Refugees

BK0309035890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Turkish President Mr. Turgut Ozal had a telephone discussion with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan regarding facilities being extended to the Pakistanis who have crossed over into Turkey following the current disturbed situation in the Gulf. Mr. Ozal informed the president that, on receiving reports about the Pakistanis, he directed the Turkish Interior Ministry officers to rush to the border areas to supervise provision of essential facilities to them and facilitate their onward journey to Pakistan.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressed to the Turkish president the gratitude of the people and Government of Pakistan for assistance to the affected Pakistanis. He said the timely help by Turkey reflects the depth of fraternal relations between the two countries.

Over 1,000 Pakistanis and Afghans have arrived in Islamabad by four special flights of Saudi airlines. In all, about 2,000 are expected to arrive aboard seven flights arranged by Saudi Arabia to bring back home the stranded Pakistanis.

International Team To Conduct Pre-election Survey

BK0409111890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1039 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sep 4 (AFP)—A six-member international team will arrive here this week to conduct a pre-election survey in Pakistan, western diplomats said Tuesday. During its week-long visit the team will visit Karachi and Lahore, also to discuss arrangements for impartial elections President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has promised for October 24, they said.

The president dismissed former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government on August 6, saying that it was inept and corrupt. The team is being despatched under the aegis of the Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) for international affairs.

The team is to meet with opposition politicians including Ms. Bhutto and government leaders to ensure that the elections will be free and fair. Diplomats said that after the initial survey NDI plans to send a bigger team to monitor the October polls.

Recent Blasts Said Aimed at Delaying Elections

BK0109144890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Federal Interior Minister Zahid Sarfraz has expressed the view that the recent bomb blasts in Faisalabad and Rawalpindi and the shooting by unidentified gunmen in Karachi are closely interlinked, adding that these acts might have been carried out by the same group. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said that he can say with confidence that the motive behind these incidents is either delaying the elections or their postponement. He categorically said that the elections will be held as scheduled and they will be held under the supervision of the judiciary in a free and impartial manner. The foreign press will also be invited to observe the elections.

Replying to a question, Zahid Sarfraz said that the elements who are trying to create an atmosphere of insecurity are in fact doing so to escape from the process of accountability.

Court Sentences Soviet Hijackers to Prison

BK0209164890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1628 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Karachi, Sept 2 (AFP)—A special Pakistani court handling anti-terrorist cases Sunday sent to prison 11 Soviet hijackers who surrendered to authorities here last month, court sources said. The Soviet nationals, who had hijacked an Aeroflot jetliner on a domestic flight in the Soviet Union and forced it to land here, have been charged with hijacking and possessing unlicenced weapons, they said. The hijackers, who surrendered August 20, appeared before the special court on the expiry of remand.

The court ordered concerned agencies to produce further evidence in the next hearing. The hijackers had forced the Soviet jetliner to land here with 29 passengers on board as hostages. After long negotiations with Pakistani authorities, they surrendered and released their hostages, who were flown back to the Soviet Union. It was earlier reported that the hijackers had asked for political asylum. Reports from Moscow have suggested that a Soviet KGB mission would arrive here soon to seek their extradition for trial there.

Jatoi Discusses Political Situation With MQM

BK3108123990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has said he has instructed the Sindh government to review cases of workers of all parties and groups, irrespective of their political affiliations, who have been implicated in false cases. He was talking to newsmen at the residence of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] leader, Mr. Altaf Hussain, in Karachi this afternoon. Mr. Jatoi said the matter has already been discussed with the Sindh government and the decision taken in principle that such cases will be reviewed and given sympathetic consideration. He said he has been meeting various political leaders and he has now met the MQM leader who has returned home from London after medical treatment.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Altaf Hussain said he discussed with the prime minister the general political situation of the country.

Indian Artillery Destroys 200 Homes in Kashmir

BK3108150490 Lahore THE NATION in English 31 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Muzaffarabad—AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] Prime Minister Mumtaz Hussian Rathod said on Thursday that a number of villagers along the Line of Control in Kashmir have been evacuated following Indian artillery fire in Neelam valley on Tuesday which destroyed 200 houses besides causing injuries to civilians, reports APP. [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN]

Talking to newsmen here, he said, strict vigilance was being maintained in AJK.

Another report adds:

The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Mumtaz Hussain Rathod has said that the current liberation movement in Held Kashmir was a test of resolve, steadfastness and internal unity of political elements in AJK. India, he said, had employed all means in Held Kashmir to wipe out the young freedom-fighters.

Talking to a group of Kashmir youth at Prime Minister's House on Wednesday night the AJK Premier said that due to Gulf crisis Kashmiris' struggle for freedom was being undermined by international media. He said all the politicians of the State should tackle the situation jointly and with wisdom.

The Prime Minister said that he believed that every institution in AJK should work with determination at this moment when Kashmiri freedom fighters were adding a new chapter to the history of freedom.

The Prime Minister said: "I want to point out to the politicians in AJK that their conduct and future perceptions face severe test at this critical juncture of freedom movement."

He said that all the politicians should act in such a way that their deeds should be a source of inspiration for freedom fighters.

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Continue Advance to Jaffna

BK3108120590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] The security forces continued their advance toward the Jaffna Peninsula. They also engaged in clearing operations in the islands of Kayts and Mandaitivu. They are now in the process of clearing the Pannai causeway which is the approach road from Mandaitivu Island to the fort. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have damaged the bridge and the culvert on the causeway. These are being repaired. The ship ("Wincome Trader") left Colmbo for Point Pedro carrying over 1,250 metric tons of food, other essential supplies and medicines to Jaffna Peninsula and the Mullaittivu District. The ship "M.V. Lankasiri" is unloading 1,500 metric tons of food and other items at Point Pedro. This consignment will be distributed to the people from today. The "M.V. Sigiri" is expected to sail from Trincomalee to Point Pedro with a consignment of over 650 metric tons of flour.

During the 24 hours ending 1200 noon yesterday, the security forces continued their advance toward the Jaffna Peninsula. The security forces also engaged in clearing operations in the islands of Kayts and Mandaitivu. They are now in the process of clearing the Pannai causeway which is the approach road from Mandaitivu island to the fort. The LTTE terrorists have damaged the bridge and the culvert of the causeway. These are being repaired. [repeat of the passage of first graf as heard] The Mandaitivu and the Kayts Islands had been heavily mined. The secretary, defense, General S. C. Ranatunge, reported that one mine field in particular was 20 yards wide and about 800 yards long. He estimated that well over 1,000 antipersonnel mines had been planted in this mine field. Among the LTTE terrorists captured were two boys aged 12 and 14 years in uniform, said to belong to the LTTE Baby Brigade.

Army camps in Kankesanturai and Elephant Pass were fired upon with mortars by the LTTE terrorists. No casualties had been reported. In the town area of Jaffna, it is reported that the LTTE terrorists have blasted several culverts and small bridges in their attempt to deter the security forces from carrying operations in these areas.

Mullaittivu army camp came under heavy LTTE terrorist attacks. On Wednesday [29 August], two Air Force helicopters attempting to land in this camp to evacuate about 40 wounded soldiers were slightly damaged due to the LTTE mortar fire. However, these two helicopters were able to return to their bases and the wounded have now been airlifted to the Anuradhapura hospital.

No Major Incidents, No Food Shortage Reported

BK0109114890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] No major incidents were reported from the Northern and Eastern Provinces during the last 24 hours ending at 1200 yesterday. However, the Mullaitivu army camp continues to be under siege by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. A communique from the Defense Ministry says the security forces' camps at Valachchenai, Elephant Pass, and Kilinochchi were attacked by the LTTE terrorists. No major casualties have been reported.

Military intelligence sources reported that recent intercepts of LTTE communications do not indicate any

serious food shortage in the Jaffna Peninsula. The popular belief that there is a food shortage is attributable to a misinformation campaign launched by certain vested interests both in Sri Lanka and abroad to put a halt to the recent advances made by the security forces, especially in the islands of Kayts and Mandaitivu. According to the communique, this is further confirmed by the fact that the government agent of Jaffna has been administering 352 welfare centers which cater to the basic needs of 355,000 displaced persons, including free food, medicine, and shelter. The government agent, Jaffna, has not encountered any difficulties so far in obtaining the necessary food supplies to feed such a large number of displaced persons.

The communique further says that the food commissioner has reported that on the 11th of June 1990 when hostilities broke out between the Sri Lanka security forces and the LTTE terrorists, there was rice and dal [beans] stock sufficient for two months in the government food stores in the Jaffna District. In addition, the cooperatives, the private trade, and LTTE terrorists carried large stocks of food items. The food stocks that have been transported by road and sea since the 11th of June 1990 now exceed the quantity that was not in the food stores in the Jaffna District on that day. Therefore, the food commissioner argued that on the assumption that more than 100,000 refugees have already left the Jaffna Peninsula, he cannot envisage a serious food shortage unless the LTTE terrorists are creating an artificial shortage by holding large stocks of food supplies for their exclusive use. It has also been reported that the ordinary citizens of the Jaffna Peninsula have started pressurizing the LTTE terrorists against the deliberate disruption of transport of essential and other supplies by road to the Northern Province. It is also reported that there is absolutely no food shortage in the Eastern Province. Those are the districts of Trincomalee, Batticaloa, and Amparai.

LTTE Attack Continues in Jaffna, Elsewhere

BK0209153590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacks continued in Jaffna Fort, Elephant Pass, and Parantan. According to official reports in Colombo, the blasting of the Pannai causeway and mine fields laid by the LTTE have plagued down the forward march of the Sri Lankan forces in securing positions in the environs of the Jaffna Fort and the hospital.

'Major' Operations in Mullaitivu, Trincomalee

BK0209110090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, over 30 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants and six army soldiers have been killed in two separate incidents. In Mullaitivu, 30 LTTE militants and one soldier were killed yesterday, when security forces launched a sweeping attack on LTTE militants, who had been besieging the army camp for several days.

Our Colombo correspondent, Karuppuswamy, reports that this is the first major army operation against the LTTE stronghold after clamping curfew in three districts in the northern province. In Trincomalee, LTTE militants killed five soldiers, when they attacked security forces engaged in clearing operation.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government has called a meeting of all political parties in Colombo on Wednesday [5 September]. It will discuss the amalgamation of the north and east provinces.

Further on Incidents

BK0309121690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] The security forces conducted two major operations in the Trincomalee and Mullaitivu areas up to noon yesterday. In the Mullaitivu District, the security forces conducting operations supported by the Air Force and the Navy killed a large number of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. Of those killed, 28 bodies have been found so far. The weapons, ammunition, grenades, and radio communication equipment have been recovered. Many LTTE terrorists are reported fleeing the area, as the advancing troops dislodged them from their position.

The Mullaitivu army camp has been under siege for several days. The security forces suffered many casualties. With the operation, the security forces will be able to clear and secure the Mullaitivu town in due course.

The security forces under the supervision of the general officer commanding the northern area distributed food to the displaced persons in the islands of Mandaitivu and Kayts with effect from the 31st of August. A citizens committee has been established in these islands, which has the population of about 45,000 people. The citizens committee will liaise with the security forces to oversee the distribution of food, medicine, and other essential items to the people. A special distribution point has been opened at Kayts, which will be manned by the Navy. The Navy is also distributing food to the people of Karaitivu and Nainativu. The hospital in Kayts as well as other services and facilities in these islands are being reestablished for th benefit of the people of the area.

Army Takes Mullaitivu After Six-Day Battle

BK0309161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. M.M. Jha, today met the president, Mr. Premadasa, and discussed the setting up of more refugee camps with Indian aid to stop the exodus of refugees to India. Supply

of essential items and steps to minimize civilian casualties also figured in today's discussion. Mr. Jha is leaving for India tomorrow for consultations.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Army is reported to have taken over Mullaitivu town after six days of battle against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Fifty-three LTTE men and six soldiers are reported killed in this operation.

Casualties Detailed

BK0409101690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1001 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sep 4 (AFP)—More than a dozen leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were killed when government troops seized a rebel-controlled northern Sri Lankan town, military officials said Tuesday. At least fifteen top and middle-level rebel leaders died when the army captured Mullaitivu town Monday, a military spokesman here said, adding that a total of 53 guerrillas and eight soldiers died in the battle.

Some 40 soldiers were wounded in the fighting in addition to dozens already injured inside the Mullaitivu army camp under siege by the LTTE until Monday, the spokesman said. The injured troops had been evacuated, he added. Officials said rebel positions around the camp had been destroyed by army commandos but felt it was too early to say whether the siege was completely over.

Hundreds of troops backed by helicopter gunships and naval gunboats routed the LTTE cadres in Mullaitivu on Monday to bring the army its first major triumph since they launched an all-out offensive two weeks ago, officials said. Observers here said the capture of mullaitivu town was an important victory for the army in its current offensive against the tigers in five districts in northern province.

The spokesman said army intelligence had intercepted messages from the LTTE leadership ordering its cadres to prepare mullaitivu district as a supply base for guerrillas operating in neighbouring districts. He said troops were now consolidating their positions in Mullaitivu, which lies south of the Jaffna peninsula where an army offensive continues in a bid to relieve the siege of the Jaffna Fort army camp.

Mullaitivu is a known transit point for LTTE cadres moving between the northern districts and was one area where even Indian troops, posted to the island in July 1987, could not fully establish their dominance. Indian troops who landed in the island's Tamil-majority northeast under a bilateral accord to crush Tamil separatism, left Sri Lanka in March after fighting a bloody guerrilla war with the Tigers.

Jungle-infested Mullaitivu has afforded the LTTE ideal terrain from which to stage guerrilla warfare. The rebels were reported to have built massive bunkers and underground hospitals in Mullaitivu during 14 months of peace talks with Colombo which foundered June 11 when they renewed their campaign for a separate state.

Unofficial and official sources here say more than 3,800 people have so far died in the fighting between government troops and rebels. Officials said an indefinite curfew in the Vavuniya, Mannar and Kilinochchi districts in the north had been lifted but could be reimposed as the situation warranted. The curfew, imposed by the army before it launched its northern offensive, was however continuing in Jaffna and Mullaitivu district, the officials added.

Meanwhile, military officials said at least nine people including three civilians died in fresh violence in the northeast. The civilians were killed by LTTE mines in eastern Ampara district, an official said, while the navy killed at least six rebels aboard a boat approaching northern Point Pedro coast from southern India. The navy siezed medical items and accessories for camouflage uniforms from the boat, the official added.

Military officials said LTTE cadres still travelled between northern Jaffna peninsula and the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu in speed boats. India has said its shores would not be allowed to be used by the militants. The navy cordoned off the Palk Strait, the narrow stretch of sea between Sri Lanka and India, shortly after fighting flared up in the northeast in June but the rebels are frequently reported to have slipped through the dragnet.